

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 294

MONDAY DECEMBER 12, 2011

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## POLL RESULTS

Should FICA taxes be deducted from foreign workers in the CNMI?

Yes 94

No 57

No opinion 6

Sunday, December 11, 2011

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DAYS TO GO  
BEFORE  
Christmas

INSIDE



## Trade Veto

Britain's Treasury chief defended Prime Minister David Cameron's decision to veto changes to the European Union treaty.

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## Landmark Agreement

A U.N. climate conference reached a hard-fought agreement Sunday on a far-reaching program meant to set a new course for the global fight against climate change.

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Govt agencies, departments not complying with new actuarial rate. **PAGE 2**  
Guam's help sought for jobless Filipinos in CNMI. **PAGE 3**

## People can now start applying for 1-year parole

» USCIS strongly urges filing on or before Jan. 31, 2012

» No need to apply for new parole if person already applied in November

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

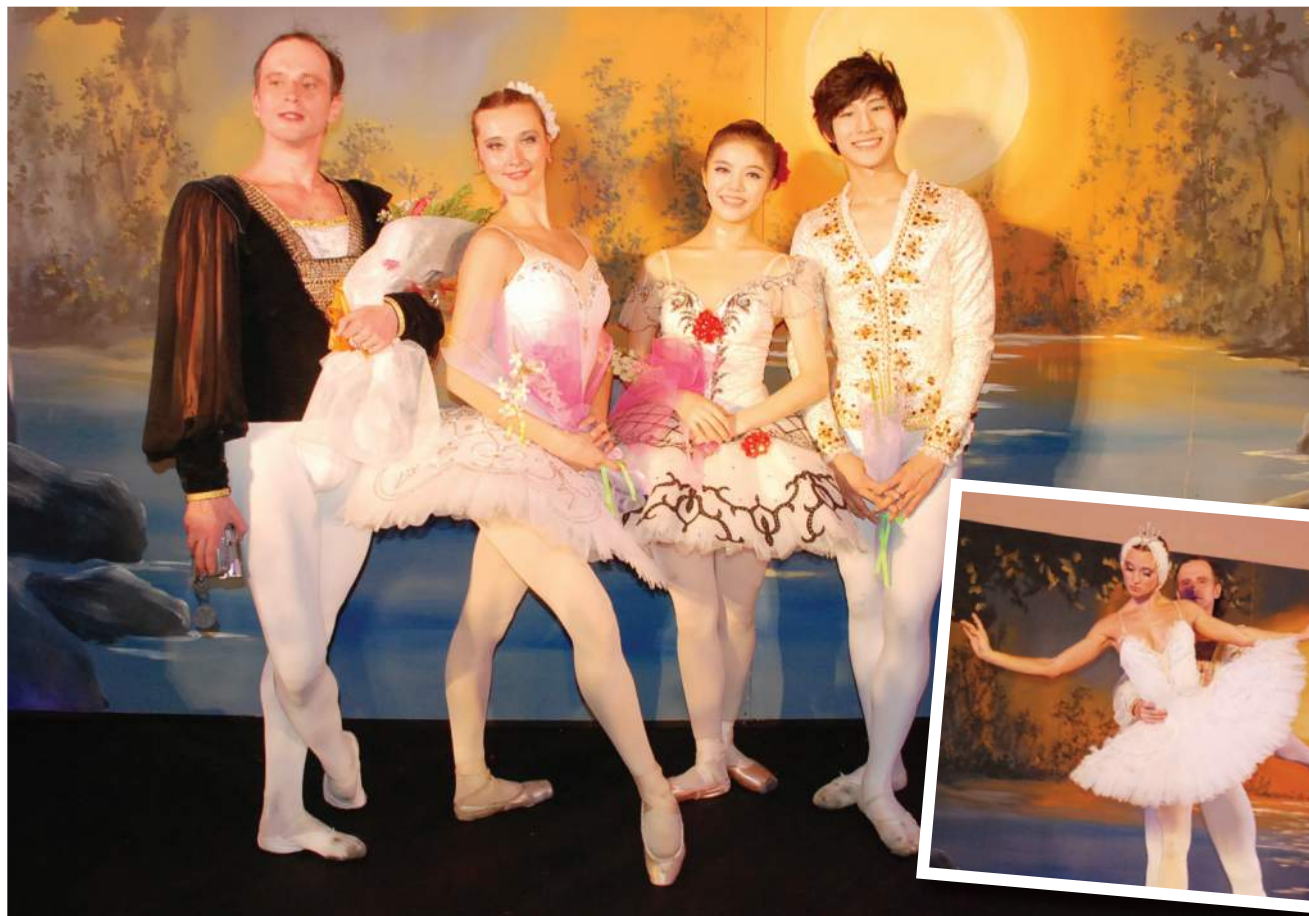
Certain "stateless" individuals and immediate relatives of U.S. citizens including foreign parents of minor U.S. citizen children can now start applying for parole that, if granted, would allow them to lawfully remain in the CNMI until Dec. 31, 2012.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services released on Friday the application guidelines for this type of parole.

This came two weeks after USCIS' initial announcement on Thanksgiving in the CNMI.

While there is no deadline for applying for this type of parole, USCIS "strongly recommends" that eligible individuals

See PAROLE on Page 4



## IRS retraction of FICA tax decision sought

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is seeking "retraction" of a U.S. Internal Revenue Service position that Filipino workers in the CNMI are no longer exempt from paying Federal Insurance Contribution Act taxes as a result of federalization of local immigration. The Fitial administration also wants continuous FICA tax exemp-



Brennan

See IRS on Page 4

## SPLENDID PERFORMANCE

International ballet stars Daniil Kurnyov and Natalia Kolosova from the Saratov State Ballet Theater in Russia and Su Ji Ki and Joo Won An from Universal Ballet Academy in Seoul, Korea smile for the camera after their last performance for *Swan Lake* and *Concert of the Ballet Stars* at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater on Saturday. Inset shows Kolosova and Kurnyov during one of the excerpts from one of the greatest classical ballets of all time, *Swan Lake*.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

See story on Page 18

## Scientists map Mariana Trench

Scientists have been able to map the Mariana Trench, the deepest known section of ocean in the world, in greater detail than ever before.

The Mariana Trench in the western Pacific runs for roughly 1550 miles (2,500km) and extends down to nearly seven miles or 10,994metres.

The survey, conducted by the Center for Coastal and Ocean Mapping, was completed to help determine the extent of U.S. territory in the region.

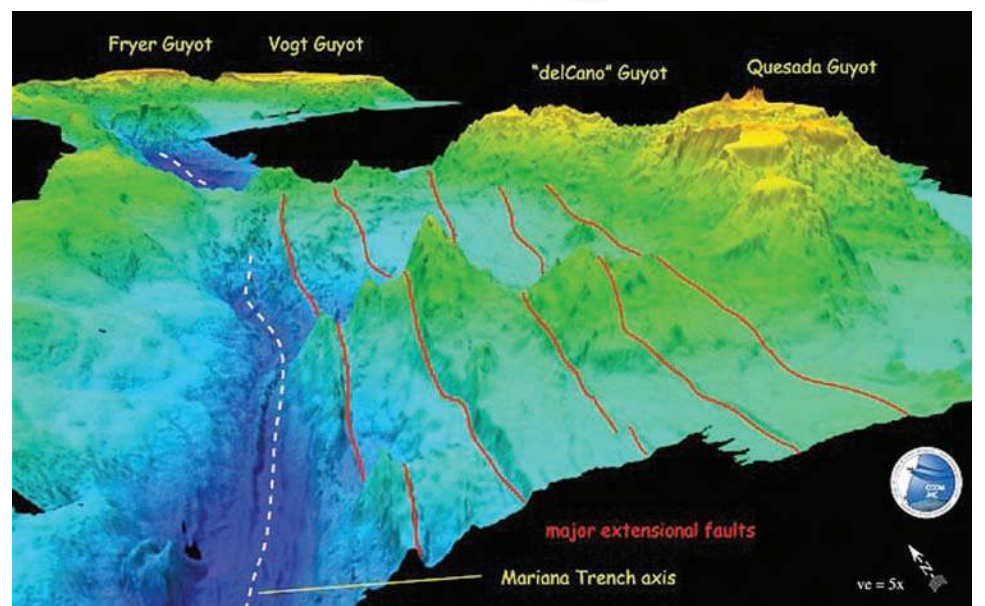
This deepest point measured, known as Challenger Deep, extends deeper below sea level than Mount Everest—at 8,839 me-

ters—rises above it.

Dr Jim Gardner, of CCOM, which is based at the University of New Hampshire, told the BBC: "We mapped the entire trench, from its northern end at Dutton Ridge, all the way to where it becomes the Yap Trench in the south.

"We used a multibeam echosounder mounted on a U.S. Navy hydrographic ship. This instrument allows you to map a swath of soundings perpendicular to the line of travel of the ship. It's like mowing the grass. And we were able to map the trench at a 100m resolution."

See TRENCH on Page 4

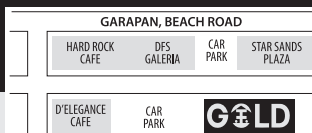




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## Govt agencies, departments not complying with new actuarial rate

» Fund cites \$38M delinquent employer contributions of autonomous agencies

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Except for the NMI Retirement Fund and the Workers Compensation Commission, no government agency and department has complied with the new actuarial contribution rate that was implemented this fiscal year 2012.

This is what Fund officials and board of trustees revealed Friday during its regular meeting where they also disclosed that unpaid employer contributions of mostly autonomous agencies now amounts to \$38 million.

The actuarially determined rate for employer contributions is set at 60.8686 percent beginning Oct. 1, 2012. In a report to the board, its acting comptroller Pablito Amog indicated that the CNMI government and other agencies do not contribute at this level as of end of October this year.

The board revealed that the outstanding obligation to the Fund may double this fiscal year if unpaid contributions are not resolved.

The deficient employer contribution of \$38,094,133 is from 11 agencies and departments, and this was a result of the implementation of several laws that changed the contribution rate of some agencies—from zero to 11 percent, to 24 percent,

and 37 percent levels.

Records show that the Public School System incurred the highest delinquent contribution of \$26.7 million as of Oct. 31 while Northern Marianas College came next with a deficient contribution of \$6.3 million as of the same period.

Also registering a huge unpaid contribution is Commonwealth Utilities Corp. with \$3.9 million which figure is being disputed by the utilities company. It was early this year when the Fund sued CUC for its unpaid obligation. A settlement proposal has been offered by CUC which determined amount of obligation was countered by the Fund.

Board chair Sixto Igisomar told *Saipan Tribune* Friday that the Fund is still firm in its stand that the amount was the right obligation due to the Fund. "There may be some confusion on the matter because of the different laws [on contribution rate], but we based our figures on what is the right law [to follow]. CUC came out with their amount and

See GOVT on Page 4

## 'Lack of customs, quarantine inspectors due to austerity measures hurt businesses'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan is seeking a meeting with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the directors of Customs and Quarantine divisions over the negative impact of having inadequate number of customs and quarantine inspectors at the ports because of the government's austerity measures.

"The austerity measures are adversely affecting commerce for our businesses, as well as the consumers that purchase our products that can now wait in containers at the seaport for additional days as a result of those austerity measures," Brennan said in a Dec. 9 letter to the governor.

Customs and quarantine officers are not exempt from the 16-hour work cut biweekly.

Brennan cited as perfect example the events on Friday wherein there was only one quarantine officer available to man all ports where cargo needing inspection entered the CNMI.

"That officer was at the Saipan International Airport, leaving the seaport unattended. There were cargo delivery delays, which in turn lead to lost revenue for both businesses and the CNMI government," he said.

In his requested meeting,

Brennan said he would also like to address customs and quarantine officers' pays. He said officers scheduled for additional duty on austerity days, as well as weekends, are only receiving base rate pay, not overtime, as a result of austerity measures.

"This has created an atmosphere of unwillingness on the part of inspection officers that must come to work on days other than regular service for Customs and Quarantine," Brennan said.

He said exacerbating this is that overtime rates are based on presented bill of lading versus actual hours where CNMI personnel are present.

"The sum total of consignees sometimes pays \$2,000 to \$4,000 per day clearing cargo," he added.

As of yesterday, there is no scheduled meeting yet between the Chamber, the governor, Customs director Jesus Muna, and Quarantine director Tom Castro.

The governor's Oct. 13 memo expanded the austerity measures to include federal funded agencies and other previously exempt agencies such as Customs and Quarantine.

Fitial is only allowing certain personnel from three government agencies to be exempt: the departments of Public Safety and Corrections and the Emergency Management Office.

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## Fund: Judicial building loan arrears at \$1.2M

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The board of trustees of the NMI Retirement Fund directed on Friday its administrator, Richard Villagomez, to discuss and clarify once and for all issues about the judicial building loan with the Fitial administration before the board starts deliberating on the foreclosure option, which will be the board's last resort to collect its investment.

Fund chair Sixto Igisomar made this clear during the board meeting Friday after learning that the government/judiciary has not been remitting payment pursuant to the loan agreement for 10 months now. Villagomez reported that the outstanding arrears from the agency is approximately \$1.2 million as of Nov. 30 this year, or an expected monthly remittance of \$120,000.

The administrator revealed that although a dedicated account was established for the said loan agreement, the Fund has no direct control of it and that it is under the Finance secretary. Igisomar said the board has tried to get control of the said account but failed because of legal issues involved. The chairman said the

Fund has already written both Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the Attorney General's Office on the status of the judicial building loan, but nothing has been done since then.

"We need to get clarification on this issue before the board can further discuss the foreclosure [of the property]," Igisomar told Villagomez during the meeting. The administrator said that the said loan is considered investment of the Fund because this accounts are recorded as loan receivables.

The foreclosure option came into the discussion when the board attorney, Carolyn Kern, said that in usual cases of delinquent loans, the board's ultimate step to collect is through their collaterals or through foreclosure.

It was the Judicial Building Financing Act of 1994 that allowed the CNMI government to secure a loan from the NMI Retirement Fund in order to build the Guma Hustisia, which has a maturity date of Aug. 14, 2015.

The construction of the Judicial Complex began in 1995. It was completed in May 1998. The revenues generated by the Judiciary was the primary source of repayment of the loan.

## Fund's pension portfolio down to \$261M

### » \$55M now transferred to CDARS program

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees disclosed Friday that based on its unaudited financial report, the estimated value of its portfolio is only \$261.2 million as of Nov. 30 this year, a slight decline from what was reported two months ago.

Fund administrator Richard Villagomez reported in Friday's regular board meeting that a slight negative return was recorded in November at -0.46 percent. In September, Fund portfolio was valued at \$266.4 million but due to continuous drawdown from the investment fund and a slight negative return, this resulted in the assets' continued decline.

Villagomez described November as an extremely difficult period for the agency because it has been dealing with a lot of issues. The biggest among these was the transition into CDARS program, or the certificate of deposit account registry service. "November was extremely difficult month because we're

trying to do many things and the biggest thing we're doing is the transitioning into CDARS program and to the Glidepath 2013 modified asset allocation simultaneously," he said.

The Fund, he said, also withdrew \$4 million in November to pay for the pension benefits of members.

As of Nov. 30, he said that \$55 million—or 21 percent of its portfolio—has already been transferred to the CDARS program.

Since the departure of investment consultant Wilshire Associates in September, the board decided to liquidate all its in-

vestments and moved them to CDARS. The liquidation aims to adapt to Glidepath 2013 which the Fund described as conservative transitional portfolio.

Villagomez provided the board the breakdown of the \$261.2 million portfolio and where are they being invested at present. He said the Fund has total cash and cash equivalent of \$22 million; international equities, \$576,745; fixed income (Vanguard and PIMCO), \$182 million; alternative investment at JP Morgan, \$1.6 million; and total bonds and cash/cash equivalent at CDARS, \$55 million.

The administrator pointed out

that the \$1.6 million at JP Morgan is still part of the original \$20 million investment that the board started liquidating since last year. Data shows that of the \$261.2 million, a bulk of the portfolio is invested at fixed income which is about 70 percent.

According to Fund board chair Sixto Igisomar, it is still the intention of the board to move all its portfolio to CDARS until a new investment consultant is found. However, he admitted that the movement to the program may take a while because amount of cash/cash equivalent that is authorized to be transferred varies from time to time.

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	Aetna High Option	\$206.90	No Dental Plan
	Aetna Low Option	\$191.39	No Dental Plan
	<b>StayWell Annual savings = \$1,999 + Potential Refund of \$ 750</b>		
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No Refund Program  
Common Law Spouses Covered at Higher Rates  
70 – 80% coverage for off-island inpatient care

**Out of Pocket Annual Maximums:**  
High Option: Single = \$ 4,000; family = \$ 12,000  
Low Option: Single = \$ 10,000; family = \$ 30,000



## TRENCH

From Page 1

Dr Gardner said his survey team put a huge amount of effort into getting their measurements correct.

Even so, the distance to the bottom of Challenger Deep has an error associated with it of about plus or minus 40 meters. The figure of 10,994m is slightly less than some other recent measurements, but they are all broadly similar.

The team presented the results of the mapping at the 2011 American

Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, the world's largest annual gathering of Earth and planetary scientists.

The State Department funded the study to establish how much territory it owns around the American territories of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands in the western Pacific Ocean.

But the data also has huge scientific interest as it gives geologists a better understanding of one of the most fascinating subduction zones on Earth. The Mariana Trench is where a huge slab of Pacific oceanic crust is being pulled down under the adjacent Philippines tectonic plate—

arguably triggering major tremors.

The survey is also timely in that four teams are about to send manned sub-

mersibles into the trench to explore its depths. So far, only two humans have visited Challenger Deep—Don Walsh

and Jacques Piccard in the research bathyscaphe Trieste in 1960. (*Daily Telegraph*)

## GOVT

From Page 2

we countered them,” he said.

Other agencies in delinquent employer contributions include the Commonwealth Health Corp., \$231,444; Credit Union, \$202.95; Commonwealth Ports Authority, \$1,515; Marianas Visitors Authority, \$768,178; Northern Marian-

as Housing Corp., \$950; Tinian Casino Gaming Commission, \$15,123; Tinian Municipal Treasurer, \$10,001; Tinian Mayor's Office, \$22,324; and Tinian Youth Center, \$5,192.

Igisomar confirmed that agencies and departments are not complying with the new actuarial rate because of their own “reasons and issues.” However, he said that the Fund will continue to enforce the rate policy and unpaid

obligation will remain in their books. “They have their reasons and issues... but we’re booking them,” he said.

Igisomar, on the issue of passing the unpaid employer contributions of certain agencies to the central government, said there remains legal questions to resolve. It has been disclosed earlier that PSS and NMC are negotiating with the administration on these unpaid obligations to the Fund.

## IRS

From Page 1

tion for Filipino, as well as Korean, foreign workers.

Paying such taxes is a big burden on both employees and employers at a time when the CNMI economy is at its worst state, they said.

FICA covers Social Security and Medicare taxes.

Chamber president Douglas Brennan requested Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan to speak with the U.S. Department of the Treasury's IRS “to seek whether this ruling can be retracted.”

“Representative Sablan, we beg you to intercede on our behalf... We have yet to see a more formal announcement, or printing, of this change in practice as written in the lately circulated letter from IRS,” Brennan told

Sablan in a Dec. 10 letter.

Brennan asked Sablan to advise the Chamber as soon as possible as to whether this retraction can be achieved.

“SCC believes you have a voice we cannot ever have,” Brennan added.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said what the Chamber is trying to do “is consistent with what the administration is trying to do.”

“And that is to bring the matter up before U.S. Treasury and of course the IRS so that we can get relief,” he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at Bridge Capital LLC's 2011 Christmas Party on Saturday night.

Inos said the administration would like FICA exemptions for Filipino and Korean workers to continue.

“It's going to be an added cost to doing business... That additional expense on the employer is just going to make it even worse so we do support any effort

to continue the exemption and/or stay any implementation of the Social Security tax (and Medicare tax),” he added.

Brennan, in his letter, said the Chamber is currently preparing a position paper to be addressed to the U.S. Treasury on this matter.

He said the Chamber “disagrees” with the IRS interpretation that all Filipino contract workers previously exempted from paying FICA taxes into the IRS will no longer be exempted from paying into the federal system.

“SCC believes these thousands of Filipino workers, and perhaps those thousands of Korean nationals, that have had their employers apply for CW-1 visa issuance are, in fact, temporary workers and should remain exempted from FICA contributions as they were in the past,” Brennan told Sablan.

Brennan cited a redacted Oct. 5

letter from the Office of the Chief Counsel for the U.S. Treasury Department's IRS, received by the Chamber on Dec. 2.

The Chamber president said CNMI businesses have been placed at the mercy of U.S. Congressional decisions that have almost brought this part of the U.S. into economic failure.

“Now we face U.S. administrative interpretations dropped on us at the midnight hour that further fuels a fire we can hardly fight anymore,” Brennan said. These include the annual 50-cent minimum wage increase,

He said increases in the cost of doing businesses, added to the astronomical power and utility charges brought by a worldwide fuel cost increase, a downturn in tourist arrivals, escalating shipping costs, less consumers as a result of a 25 percent population decrease in three years and an increase in the cost

of living, have already forced businesses to reduce business hours and lay off employees.

Brennan said the FICA taxes will add to these costs.

A worker earning a minimum wage of \$5.05 an hour will have a monthly FICA tax deduction of over \$45. Employee's FICA contribution is 5.65 percent of their salary for 2011. This is on top of the CNMI taxes that foreign workers pay.

For employers, this means an additional expense of almost \$62 a month in employer's share for every employee required to pay FICA taxes. Employer's share is 7.65 of the employee's salary—6.20 percent for Social Security, and 1.45 percent for Medicare.

Copies of the Chamber's letter to Sablan were also sent to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Interior assistant secretary for insular affairs Tony Babauta.

## PAROLE

From Page 1

apply on or before Jan. 31, 2012.

A grant of parole is at USCIS' discretion, and is on a case-by-case basis.

Precilla Villafuerte, 40, said yesterday she will immediately apply for this parole, and hopes that it will be granted soon so she could also start applying for work authorization.

She said she's thankful for the availability of this type of parole that will allow her to lawfully remain in the CNMI while looking for a new job and while waiting for the passage of Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's H.R. 1466.

HR 1466, which has yet to pass the U.S. House of Representatives, seeks a grant of CNMI-only resident status for four groups of people.

These include immediate relatives of U.S. citizens as of May 8, 2008 and continuing to be on the islands; CNMI permanent residents; those born in the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974 and Jan. 9, 1978; and spouses, parents, or children of U.S. citizens under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

“I am thankful this came out, we're given another chance to stay here to look for a job and be with our family,” Villafuerte told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Villafuerte, mother of a 5-year-old U.S. citizen daughter, came to Saipan in 1992 to work as a garment factory sewer. She lost her job because of the closure of garment factories on Saipan and was only able to remain legally in the CNMI since then because of an umbrella permit that expired only on Nov. 27.

### Landmark dates

USCIS said if people submit their parole request by Jan. 31, 2012, they will be allowed to apply for parole without accruing unlawful presence, even if

their CNMI umbrella permit or other status expired on Nov. 27, 2011.

If eligible individuals apply on or before Jan. 31, 2012, USCIS will backdate their parole validity to begin on Nov. 27, 2011.

“If your request for parole is denied, you will have accrued unlawful presence beginning on the date your status expired,” USCIS said.

For those who will apply after Jan. 31, 2012, their parole will be effective from the date their parole is granted.

This could result in those individuals accruing unlawful presence between Nov. 27, 2011 and their grant of parole.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, meanwhile, is opposed to this type of parole and might file a lawsuit to stop USCIS from granting such parole, depending on the recommendation of his attorney general.

### No appeal

There is no appeal of a denial of a parole request.

USCIS may impose reasonable conditions on parole and may revoke parole at its discretion.

But Rabby Syed, president of United Workers Movement-NMI, said yesterday that there should be criteria on approval and denial, and that long-term foreign workers who entered the CNMI legally and worked here lawfully should be given a chance to appeal the denial of their parole application.

Syed said UWM will continue to push U.S. Congress to initiate a grant of “green card, pathway to citizenship” among long-term foreign workers in the CNMI.

Those who already applied for parole in November 2011 do not need to apply again.

Instead, they will be notified if USCIS requires any additional documentation or an in-person interview.

Villafuerte, for her part, said she hopes her parole application will not be rejected because she won't have a

chance to appeal and therefore lose her status to lawfully remain in the CNMI.

### Eligibility requirements

People who may apply for this type of parole include:

- An immediate relative of a U.S. citizen. An immediate relative for purposes of this exercise of parole authority is an individual who is a legal spouse, an unmarried child under 21 years old, or a parent (regardless of the age of the U.S. citizen child) at the time of adjudication; and who was legally present in and residing in the CNMI as of Nov. 27, 2011.
- A foreign national born in what is now the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974 and Jan. 9, 1978. These individuals are sometimes referred to as “stateless” because of their unique situation under the Covenant Act establishing eligibility for U.S. citizenship of individuals born in the CNMI.
- A child (unmarried under 21 years old) or legal spouse of a foreign national who was born in what is now the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974 and Jan. 9, 1978 (also referred to as a “stateless” individual).

Biological children, adopted children or stepchildren of U.S. citizens are eligible to apply for this exercise of parole authority as long as they meet the definition of “child” in the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to adoptions and stepchild relationships.

A widow or widower of a U.S. citizen is eligible to apply for this exercise of parole authority as long as the death of the U.S. citizen spouse occurred less than two years before the date of submitting the application for parole, and the widow or widower has not remarried.

USCIS has exercised discretionary parole authority on a case-by-case basis in the CNMI since 2009 for special situations.

### How to apply

There is no filing fee to apply for parole.

If an individual granted parole would like to work, there is a filing fee of \$380 to apply for an Employment Authorization Document, or EAD.

If the applicant is an immediate relative of a U.S. citizen, the latter must provide the following to request parole:

- A letter asking for parole that includes
- A P.O. Box mailing address
- A contact telephone number
- A completed Form G-325, Biographic Information
- A copy of biographic and validity pages of passport
- Evidence of identity and qualifying family relationship with the U.S. citizen spouse, parent or child (including evidence of their U.S. citizenship)
- Evidence of residence in the CNMI at the time of application
- Two passport-style photographs
- Evidence of legal presence in the CNMI as of Nov. 27, 2011, such as an umbrella permit

USCIS said it will perform the appropriate background checks and will schedule people for a biometrics appointment.

It will then make a decision on the parole request based upon the merits of the application that the applicant presented and any other material evidence of record.

The requirements for certain “stateless” individuals are almost the same as those of immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, except the former also need to provide evidence of birth in the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974 and Jan. 9, 1978, or (if applying as a spouse or child) evidence of qualifying family relationship with an individual born in the CNMI between those dates.

### Where to apply

Applicants may drop off their parole request at the Application Support Center at the TSL Plaza in Garapan, or may

mail the request to:

DHS-USCIS  
Sirena Plaza, Suite 100  
108 Hernan Cortez Avenue  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
ATTN: IMMEDIATE RELATIVE PAROLE – CNMI

More information about eligibility and requirements are available at the USCIS website, <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnnextoid=2ae38614e90d3310VgnVCM10000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=4d3314dd2b635210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD>.

### Validity, employment, travel

If USCIS determines that a person is eligible for parole, USCIS will grant parole for an appropriate period of time, not to extend beyond Dec. 31, 2012.

USCIS will make a decision about possible extensions at a later date.

A grant of parole will provide continuing lawful presence after Nov. 27, 2011, until the parole validity period expires or parole is revoked.

A grant of parole also does not authorize employment but will allow a person to apply for work authorization by submitting a Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization.

Syed, of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said yesterday he would like to ask USCIS to have a “special desk” for the CNMI, so that parole applications will be reviewed and granted immediately so that these individuals can start applying for work authorization.

This parole also does not authorize travel to any other part of the United States.

“Parole will be automatically terminated if you leave the CNMI. If you need to travel, you will have to contact USCIS,” the agency said.

Applying for parole is also separate from applying for lawful permanent residence or “green card.”



# MPLT invests \$1M from DPL to Seix

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Heeding the advice of its investment consultant, the Marianas Public Land Trust board of trustees agreed to invest in the market the \$1 million it recently received from the Department of Public Lands through its high yield

fixed income manager.

The board made the decision to invest the money with Seix after Daniel Roland, senior vice president for wealth management and senior institutional consultant for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, made a presentation during Friday's meeting.

Board member Pete Cruz ar-



CLARISSA V. DAVID  
Morgan Stanley Smith Barney senior vice president for wealth management and senior institutional consultant Daniel Roland presents to the Marianas Public Land Trust during its board meeting on Friday in Capitol Hill.

gued that the money should be invested with Seix "instead of idling in the bank."

In Roland's presentation,

MPLT's general fund as of Nov. 30 is invested 6.5 percent in high yield fixed income, 11.9 percent in global fixed in-

come, 9.7 percent in large cap core, 5.8 percent in emerging markets, 9.8 percent in convertibles, and 43.7 percent in core fixed income.

MPLT's portfolio as of Nov. 30 is valued at \$61.726 million

Asked by chair Alvaro Santos as to what would be a safe percentage to transfer to its high yield fixed income investment "that would significantly yield," Roland said it would "make sense" if the \$1 million from

DPL would be invested in Seix.

DPL remitted last Nov. 23 \$1 million, representing its land lease payment collection for fiscal year 2011.

Roland noted in his presentation that income yield for MPLT is doing "very healthy" at 3.5 percent.

But Roland pointed out that the continuing Euro crisis, the federal government's large deficit, and next year's election will continue to contribute to the market's volatility.

"It's certainly going to be a bumpy ride," Roland said.

## MPLT no longer interested in leasing Fund building

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Marianas Public Land Trust has withdrawn its interest in leasing a portion of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, according to Fund administrator Richard Villagomez.

Villagomez reported to the board that MPLT chair Alvaro Santos wrote him a letter indicating the agency's determination that the lease proposal will not be of the best interest of the public land trustee.

Villagomez said Alvaro's letter came as a response to the Fund's lease-term proposal which he described as a "standard lease agreement" used by the agency for its previous tenants.

MPLT was looking at leasing a portion of the second floor of the Fund building after its current office, the former Commonwealth Election Commission at Anatahan Drive on Capital Hill, was assigned for the CNMI Homeland Security Office in the planned merger with the Emergency Management Office. MPLT has been using the space free.

While the Fund looks for new tenants after the relocation of Public School System to Susupe, MPLT then agreed to the \$1 per square foot deal for the proposed office space. Negotiations between the parties became dim after Santos revealed that the Fund wanted a higher fee and due to some stringent conditions in the proposed lease term.

Saipan Tribune learned that MPLT is now assigned a building in the south side of Capital Hill to build its office. MPLT is

a semi-government agency that received land lease payments on government property. These payments, pursuant to law, must be used in investment of which returns and earnings are remitted to the general fund.

Fund chair Sixto Igisomar last Friday instructed management to continue announcing the vacant space until new tenants are identified.

It was earlier disclosed that MPLT had purchased a property in Capital Hill in 2007 for its planned commercial building project where it will also house its office. Due to financial crisis then, this project was shelved. MPLT bought a 4,000-square meter land, which cost about \$200,000. Compared to spending \$700,000 for the development of commercial building and office, MPLT said it will only be paying about \$15,000 yearly in space rental.

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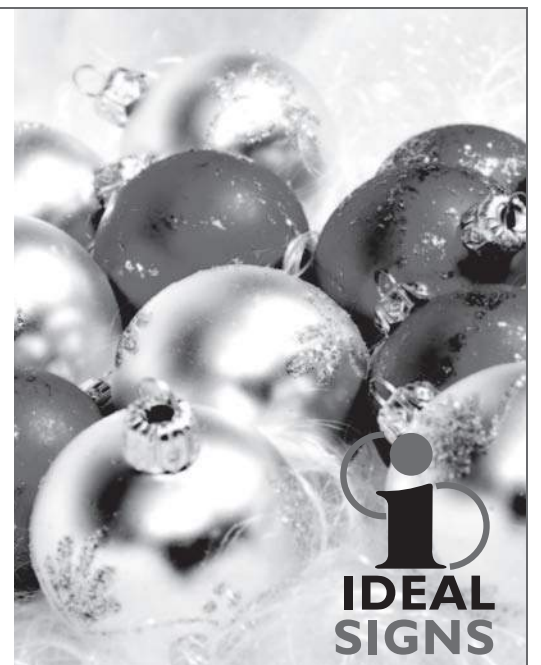


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# Guam's help sought for jobless Filipinos in CNMI

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance is proposing to assist jobless Filipinos in the CNMI by getting them employment in Guam.

Dr. Celia Lamkin, USP4GG Marianas Chapter president, announced the proposal during the immigration forum featuring top immigration lawyer Atty. Ted Laguatan at the Marianas Business Plaza ground floor last Thursday.

Lamkin disclosed that she has met with Guam Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio to discuss the proposal, which would allow for jobless Filipinos in the Commonwealth to be hired in Guam as an "inter-island" agreement or without having the unemployed to exit to the Philippines.

"The response of the lieutenant governor is actually positive and optimistic," Lamkin informed over 100 Filipinos and guests who attended the forum.

According to Lamkin, Tenorio was "surprised" that many Filipinos who are "highly skilled" do not have jobs in the CNMI.

Lamkin said she will seek the assistance of Laguatan and an-

other Filipino-American lawyer and one of USP4GG's founding members, Loida Nicolas-Lewis, to see to it that the proposal becomes a reality.

The chapter president added, "We at U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance will advocate for that. With our help, we will try

to make it happen."

Laguatan, legal counsel for USP4GG, said that while the lieutenant governor's receptiveness was good news, he pointed out that there is a need to thoroughly review the proposal since it involves immigration issues.

According to Laguatan, there are different questions that need to be answered should the proposal push through.

Thursday's announcement was welcomed positively by members of the Filipino community, both employed and unemployed alike.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance Marianas Chapter president Celia Lamkin addresses the audience at the immigration forum held at the Marianas Business plaza ground floor last Dec. 8. Also in photo is Atty. Ted Laguatan, who answered immigration-related questions during the forum.

Renato Gomez, who works as a general maintenance staffer for DFS, said the proposal is "good news" especially for those Filipinos seeking work.

"If this would materialize, they would be able to help many of our *kababayans*," Gomez, 54, told *Saipan Tribune*.

An Oleai resident and single mother who lost her job as a houseworker only a few weeks ago said the proposal might just be her means to find a job to support her two children in the Philippines.

Another Filipino, who has been on Saipan for 17 years and recently resigned from his work, said USP4GG's proposal will be a big help to a lot of jobless Filipinos.

"It gives a glimmer of hope to many people," he said.

Alex Gablinez, a technician at Advance X-Terminators and Pest Control, said he is very pleased with the announcement.

"I hope this proposal will push through. I have a few friends who can benefit from this," said Gablinez.

## Trial of EEOC's sexual harassment lawsuit on behalf of band singer begins today

The jury trial of a sexual harassment lawsuit filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on behalf of a band singer who claimed that a then restaurant manager of a hotel made sexual advances on her, will commence today, Monday, in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

The jury selection in EEOC's lawsuit against Asia Pacific Hotels Inc., operator of the Saipan Grand Hotel, is expected to begin at 9am.

The former restaurant manager will not testify in court, but his deposition was filed in court.

In the deposition, the former manager, who is now based in the Philippines, confessed he had engaged in a consensual relationship with the band singer.

The former manager disclosed, among other things, that the singer, who was drunk at the time, invited him to her room.

He was arrested, but was never charged. The singer eventually became the girlfriend of a police officer, who was among those who reportedly investi-

gated the case.

Attorneys Steven Pixley and Vincent J. Seman are representing Asia Pacific Hotels Inc.

Trial attorneys Nancy Griffiths and Derek Li are counsels for EEOC.


EEOC alleged that defendants Asia Pacific Hotels Inc., Tan Holdings, and other co-defendants allowed the singer to be subjected to sexual harassment that was severe enough to create a hostile, abusive work environment.

EEOC alleged that the hotel's restaurant manager subjected the singer to unwelcome touching of a sexual nature.

Pixley had earlier described the lawsuit as frivolous as he pointed out that Asia Pacific has long standing policies prohibiting sexual harassment.

Pixley said following the management's investigation, the manager was immediately terminated consistent with the standing policies.

Pixley vowed to "vigorously defend this frivolous litigation in a court of law." (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**



In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold a special meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00pm at the Pacific Islands Club, Napu Room, San Antonio, Saipan. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome.


**AGENDA**

- I. Preliminary Matters**
  - Call to order
  - Roll Call
  - Quorum
  - Adoption of Agenda
- II. OSEP Big Picture – Apr Trends and Verification Visit Findings**
- III. OSEP Continuous Improvement Visit – Schedule and Priorities**
- IV. FFY 2010 APR Indicator Data and Trends**
- V. Evaluating Improvement Activities for Effectiveness**
- VI. Part C Regulations**
- VII. Adjournment**


In compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters must call 237-3029. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Margarita Aldan  
Chairwoman

/s/ Suzanne W. Lizama  
Acting Coordinator,  
Early Intervention Program



**PUBLIC NOTICE**



In accordance with the "Open Government Act", the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold a special meeting on Friday, December 16, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00pm at the Pacific Islands Club, Napu Room, San Antonio, Saipan. This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome.

**AGENDA**

- I. Preliminary Matters**
  - Call to order
  - Roll Call
  - Quorum
  - Adoption of Agenda
- II. Annual Report**
- III. OSEP Big Picture – Apr Trends and Verification Visit Findings**
- IV. OSEP Continuous Improvement Visit – Schedule and Priorities**
- V. FFY 2010 APR Indicator Data and Trends**
- VI. Evaluating Improvement Activities for Effectiveness**
- VII. Adjournment**

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters must call 237-3029. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Frances Diaz  
Chairwoman

/s/ Suzanne W. Lizama  
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Minimum acceptable terms include the following:

- Per square foot per month, Triple Net (higher for less than full available footage);
- Lessee responsible for own utilities, as well as cost to separately meter;
- 24 months minimum lease term; and
- First month, last month and reasonable security deposit required (amount depends on credit history and financial strength of Lessee).

All proposals are subject to acceptance by the NMIRF Board of Trustees in its sole discretion.

/s/ RICHARD S. VILLAGOMEZ  
Administrator, NMI Retirement Fund



# Immunization program's exemption from austerity OK'd

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta disclosed that besides doctors and nurses, some employees of the public hospital are now exempted from austerity Fridays because of their important role in the delivery of health-care services to the people.

Babauta had earlier asked then-acting governor Eloy S.

Inos to exempt the immunization program of the Commonwealth Health Center from austerity measures so it could continue serve the increasing number of children who needed to avail of the services.

"The governor and the lieutenant governor have graciously agreed to the exemption request for the immunization program and because of that, the office is now pack with kids everyday especially during Fridays," he

said in an interview.

Babauta, however, said that the exemption to the immunization program is only valid up to January. The CEO said since they opened the immunization clinic two weeks ago, this brought some convenience to parents who took advantage of austerity Fridays to bring their children to the hospital.

Babauta said that since the formal takeover of the corporation this fiscal year, he clarified with

the Attorney General's Office if the corporation will be included in the government policy. "I asked the governor and the AG and they all feel that the corporation is still part of the government and that it is subject to its directive and policy," said the CEO.

But Babauta said both the

governor and the AGO are open for further "discussion" on the issue of whether or not the corporation will be subject to the executive branch orders and policy in the future when the corporation established its self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

"I think if we can justify our

position, especially in critical services, then I think they will listen. But for now, we just have to adhere to the policy of the government," he said.

The corporation has over 600 employees on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota of which all nurses and doctors are exempted from the austerity measures identified by the administration.

## Bank counsel: Mayor Flores' claim for \$200K long-term investment lacks common sense

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores' claim that he purchased Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$200,000 in 1993 from the now defunct Union Bank as a long-term investment defies common sense, according to a lawyer for Union Bank of California.

Attorney Elyze McDonald Iriarte, counsel for Union Bank of California (UBC), said for that long-term investment, Flores purchased a certificate of deposit that matured in a very short 32 days, with interest "payable at maturity" and made no demand for 15 years.

Flores also admits having "common knowledge" that the First Hawaiian Bank moved into the same building Union Bank had occupied, meaning that he was aware Union Bank no longer operated in Saipan after 2011, said Iriarte in UBC's

reply in support of First Hawaiian Bank's motion to dismiss Flores' lawsuit.

"If plaintiff (Flores) intended a long-term investment, making a demand on a one-month CD 15 years after it matured lacks common sense," the lawyer said.

Moreover, Iriarte said, Flores' "reliance in the safety of his CD record...after the sale of Union Bank" is unreasonable and implausible given that he was aware of the sale, and his CD had matured eight years prior to the sale.

Iriarte said all Flores' claims must be dismissed on this basis.

Flores, through counsel Juan T. Lizama, is suing UCB and First Hawaiian Bank.

Lizama stated in the complaint that Flores purchased the CD in the principal amount of

\$200,000 that was issued in his name by the Saipan Branch of Union Bank on Sept. 10, 1993.

Lizama said his client kept the issued certificate with the intent of eventually redeeming it.

Lizama said that on Nov. 15, 2001, Union Bank sold all assets and liabilities of its Saipan branch office to FHB.

UCB joined the FHB's motion to dismiss Flores' lawsuit.

In opposing the motion to dismiss, Flores, through Lizama, asserted that the record of his Time Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$200,000 could not have disappeared without any negligence or intentional destruction of it.

Flores said the shredding of documents is extremely suspect.

FHB has denied that it received Flores' \$200,000. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

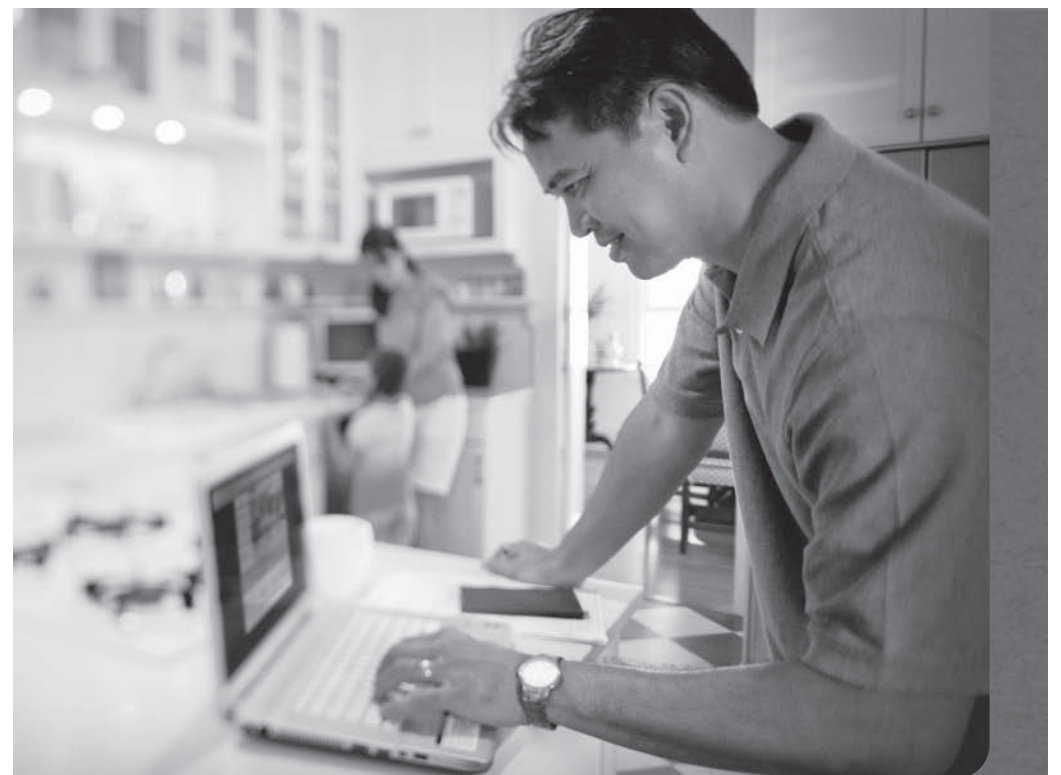
## Rev & Tax to conduct workshop for employers

The Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Finance will be conducting a workshop for the Annual Wage and Salary Statement, Form (W-2CM) for tax year 2011 and other 2011 year-end filing requirements.

The workshop will be on Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011. The first seminar will be from 8am to 11am and the second session will be from 1pm to 4pm at the Department of Public Lands conference room in the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center.

Businesses, employers, and all payroll service companies are encouraged to attend.

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## Open Season

November 21 – December 30, 2011

Notice of Change in Premiums and New Plan Options

New plan options and premiums for health insurance members, effective January 01, 2012:

### EMPLOYEES PREMIUM

PLAN COVERAGE	HIGH Option	LOW Option
Single	\$100.93	\$93.37
Couple	\$206.90	\$191.39
Couple including Domestic Partner	\$312.87	\$289.41
Family	\$322.96	\$298.78
Family including Domestic Partner	\$423.89	\$392.12

### RETIREES PREMIUM

PLAN COVERAGE	HIGH Option	LOW Option
Single	\$109.34	\$101.14
Couple	\$224.14	\$207.34
Couple including Domestic Partner	\$338.94	\$313.54
Family	\$349.87	\$323.65
Family including Domestic Partner	\$459.21	\$424.79

During Open Season, active government employees and **retirees currently enrolled** in the Plan will have the opportunity to do the following:

- Government employees not currently covered by AGB may apply for coverage for yourself and dependents
- If you are currently covered but want to make changes, you may change Plan Coverage to add dependents, switch to LOW Option, or a combination
- **Retirees currently enrolled in the plan may make changes**

Enrollment forms are available at the NMI Retirement Fund offices, or online at [www.nmiretirement.com](http://www.nmiretirement.com). Approved enrollments and changes selected during Open Season shall take effect January 1, 2012. The new premiums should be reflected on employees' paychecks for the pay period beginning January 1, 2012 and for retirees' pension for the pay date of January 15, 2012.



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Humanities Council**

*Navigating the Human Experience*

## Vacancy Announcement

Program Officer

Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) is soliciting applications for the position of Program Officer. The Program Officer is responsible for developing and implementing a variety of humanities programs and events and coordinating the Council's Community Grants program under the supervision of the Council's executive director and board of directors. A detailed description of the Program Officer's duties may be obtained from the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai or from the Council's website at [www.nmihumanities.org](http://www.nmihumanities.org).

Applicants for this position must possess: (1). strong analytic, writing and communication skills; (2). knowledge of grants writing and grants administration; (3). the ability to work effectively with people from diverse backgrounds; (4). a working knowledge of NMI history and of current political, social and economic issues confronting the local community; (5). basic computer skills including knowledge of MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint; and (6). the ability to articulate the Council's mission to a wide range of audiences.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) in a humanities discipline from an accredited postsecondary institution. The salary range is from \$35,000 to \$40,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits are set forth in the NMICH Personnel Policy Manual.

Interested individuals are invited to send an application package including: (1). letter of interest; (2). detailed résumé; (3). a writing sample (500-800 words on a humanities topic of your choice); and (4). the names and addresses of three references to Scott Russell, Executive Director, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Box 506407, Saipan, MP 96950. Complete application packages must be received by Council staff on or before 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2012. For more information about this employment opportunity please contact Council staff at 235-4785.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is an equal opportunity employer.

## IN ALLEGED BEATING OF 70-YEAR-OLD MAN

### Judge reduces bail, releases one defendant

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
[ferdie\\_delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge Joseph James Norita Camacho on Friday granted a request to post a \$16,250 unsecured or appearance bond and be released to two third party custodians made by one of three defendants who allegedly beat up and fractured the left jaw of a 70-year-old man in Dandan.

At a bail modification hearing, Camacho determined that Lorenzo L. Norita and his wife Kristina Suda Kapileo are suitable to serve as third party custodians for defendant Jerome Kaipat Norita.

Lorenzo Norita is the uncle of the defendant.

Camacho also agreed to reduce the \$16,250 cash to appearance bond.

Attorney Robert T. Torres, counsel for the 23-year-old Jerome Norita, moved to modify the \$16,250 cash bail and also requested the court to release the defendant into the care, custody, and supervision of third-party custodians.

Assistant attorney general Nicole Driscoll opposed the modification of bail. Driscoll said the defendant's brutal and unprovoked attack shows that he is a danger to the community.

Driscoll said Jerome Norita should not be released under any bail conditions short of actual cash bail, in order to adequately ensure his compliance with the terms and conditions of his release.

Driscoll said that, on Dec. 2, 2011 at 7:19am, Jerome Norita, his father, Juan Norita Jr., and another man, attacked 70-year-old Pantaleon P. De Jillas as well as his son, Ernie Matagolai De Jillas, along Flame Tree Road in Dandan.

The prosecutor said Pantaleon De Jillas had just been involved in an accident and had stopped to render aid to a girl that he struck with his pick-up truck.

The defendants came and allegedly started punching and kicking the old man.

As Ernie De Jillas approached to help his father, the defendants allegedly began hurling pieces of cinder block at him. One piece of the cinder block struck Ernie De Jillas in the ear, cutting him.

On Wednesday, Camacho denied Juan Norita's request to post a property bond and be released to his wife. The judge determined that the wife is not suitable to serve as third party custodian.

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 12, 2000

### AGO seeks changes on bill banning entry of toy guns

The Attorney General's Office has raised potential constitutional challenge on a proposed law that will ban entry into the CNMI and sale of toy guns here, citing deficiencies and questionable provisions in the measure. HB 12-76, known as the "Toy Gun Control Act," is under review by the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations chaired by Rep. Dino M. Jones. The legislation seeks to remove toy guns from store shelves and ban them here for good in an effort to protect children from harmful effects and prevent their use in criminal activities.

### Century Insurance earns ISO 9002 certification

After six months of intensive preparation, Century Insurance Co., Ltd. recently became one of the few companies in Micronesia to attain ISO 9002 international quality certification. ISO, which stands for International Organization for Standardization, is an independent standards body based in Geneva, Switzerland with a membership of approximately 130 countries that agree on common standards of high quality. For Century Insurance, the goal of attaining ISO 9002 certification involved putting in place a quality management system adhering to the rigid requirements of ISO. It included developing a comprehensive quality policy concerned with total customer satisfaction.

Dec. 12, 2001

### MVA carves a niche in JATA Congress

The Tokyo Big Sight exhibition center, held from November 29 to December 1, came alive with travel marketers from around the globe, exposing their destination to more than 50,000 travel trade members and consumers. The bi-annual event allowed travel trade, media, and consumers to find out what's new in their favorite destinations and to discover some new travel options as well. The Mariana Islands, already an extremely popular vacation choice for many Japanese consumers had a strong presence at the JATA. This year, the Marianas Visitors Authority and its members provided congress attendees with a new vision of the islands.

### 'Senate's last session still in January'

Contrary to earlier reports, the Senate's Friday session on Tinian will not be a sine die or last-session, as clarified by Senate President Paul A. Manglona. According to Manglona, he expects one more Senate session in January, before the inauguration of the new Legislature on January 14. "Actually, we're going to probably have another session a week or so before the inauguration of the 13th Senate. So, we're probably going to have two more sessions, including this coming Friday," he said.

Dec. 12, 2002

### BoH donates \$5K to NMC

Bank of Hawaii has renewed its commitment to the development and improvement of postsecondary and adult education in the CNMI with a \$5,000 donation to the Northern Marianas College-the second time this year. In making this substantial donation, Bank of Hawaii joins the ranks of individuals and private businesses that have chosen to show their community support by contributing financial assistance to NMC, while earning an Education Tax Credit under Public Law 10-73. A long-time supporter of the college, Bank of Hawaii is the principal subsidiary of the Bank of Hawaii Corp., a regional financial services company with \$14 billion assets as of year-end 2000. The Bank of Hawaii Corp. and its subsidiaries provide varied financial services to businesses, governments and consumers in Hawaii, West Pacific and American Samoa.

### CUC-CDA settlement bills become law

The two bills that put into effect the settlement terms on the over \$103 million loan that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. owes the Commonwealth Development Authority has now become law even without the signature of Gov. Juan N. Babauta. House Bills 13-106 and 13-107, which the Legislature transmitted to the Office of the Governor last October 31, automatically became laws after Babauta failed to act on both measures within the statutory deadline of 40 days. The deadline was last Nov. 9. Section 7(b), Article II of the CNMI Constitution states that the governor has 20 days to consider an appropriation bill and 40 days to consider other bills. If the governor fails either to sign or veto a bill within the applicable period, it shall become law.



## AFTER BEING SUED FOR POLICE BRUTALITY:

# OAG, DPS changes position 180 degrees

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI government concluded in its initial investigation that then police officer Jesse Dubrall committed assault and battery, but after a Chinese national who was beaten up sued, now the government asserts that Dubrall did nothing wrong, according to a lawyer.

Attorney David G. Banes, counsel for Jin Dong Wang, said initially, as can be read in the Department of Public Safety's moving papers, DPS took the position that Dubrall had committed assault and battery and so denied Mr. Wang's claim for compensation.

In Wang's opposition to the government's motion to dismiss DPS, Banes also cited Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham's June 7, 2011 letter denying any liability for the injuries to Wang "because the facts as presented, constitute the intentional torts of assault and battery."

The defense lawyer said now incredibly and without adequate explanation, the very same AG Buckingham, has certified that Dubrall's actions were in the scope and course of his employment as a police officer.

"So now, after being sued, the Commonwealth including DPS have changed their position 180 degrees and now conclude Officer Dubrall was acting in the scope and course of his employment as a police officer and thus ratifying Officer Dubrall's physical assault as well as the actions of the other officers in just standing around and watching Officer Dubrall beating, punching and kicking Mr. Wang," Banes said.

The Commonwealth, the lawyer said, has also ratified DPS' actions in failing to discipline Officer Dubrall or the other officer, apologize to Wang or change its policy of indifference to police beatings.

Banes said that, on Oct. 18, 2010 Dubrall severely beat Wang with the butt of his gun and punched and kicked him, but the police later realized that Wang was not the suspect that they were looking for.

Police called an ambulance for Wang, who suffered a large cut on the head.

At the hospital, Banes said, Wang reported the assault to another officer.

"However to date, on information and belief, the Commonwealth has done nothing to prosecute the matter," the lawyer said.

Banes asserted that DPS is liable for its failure to train and deliberate indifference to

rights and negligence.

Wang alleged that Dubrall hit him with a gun's butt and repeatedly kicked him after mistaking him for another person that police were trying to arrest on Oct. 18, 2010.

In Dubrall's answer to the lawsuit, assistant attorney general Michael A. Stanker said Dubrall denies using unreasonable force in arresting Wang.

Stanker said that Dubrall's conduct was privileged as an act of self defense.

In the government's motion to dismiss the lawsuit, the OAG said the independent investigation determined that, under the law, then police officer Dubrall was acting within the scope of his employment with DPS when Wang was arrested in As Lito.

OAG has accepted Dubrall's request for attorney representation.

the misconduct of its police officers.

Banes said if the court is inclined to grant any portion of DPS' motions, Wang respectfully requests to allow him to amend the complaint to remedy any deficiencies.

Wang is suing Dubrall for assault and battery, false arrest, emotional distress, violation of civil rights, and negligence.

Wang is also suing DPS for negligence and violation of civil rights and former DPS commissioner Santiago F. Tudela for violation of civil



## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Commonwealth Cancer Association (CCA) is the community-based cancer support organization for the Northern Mariana Islands dedicated to eliminating cancer and saving lives by providing Advocacy, Awareness, Education, Services and HOPE for all its constituents

CCA is a non-profit organization managed by a 7 member Board of Directors who represents the diversity of the CNMI. CCA's operational funding is fully supported by contributions from corporations, families and individuals.

### Position Description: Program Manager

As a Program Manager you will serve as an advocate for the CCA, supporting the CCA's mission and helping the organization better communicate who we are and what we do for the people who need us most. Eligible candidates need qualifications enabling them to fulfill the following key responsibilities:

- Manage budget and comply with stringent guidelines for program services offered to cancer patients and constituents
- Coordinate and collaborate with the Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands CNMI Representative and the CNMI Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan (CCCCP) and effectively collaborate with the Program Manager to advocate and further our mission goals
- Develop, manage and grow revenue goals through multiple, fundraising events and collateral sales
- Assist the Event Chairperson(s) and participate in efficiently carrying out our signature fundraising event the "Marianas March Against Cancer", by attending Organization Committee and Team Captain meetings
- Mobilize and coordinate a CNMI community-wide volunteer working committee to implement the CNMI CCCC
- Develop and cultivate community partnerships/relationships and participate in appropriate coalitions
- Prepare/disseminate reports and publications such as an annual report, weekly performance report, bulletins, brochures, flyers, and various other promotional and educational cancer-related materials
- Assertively promote CCA Advocacy, initiatives, education and services to schools, worksites and community leaders to effectively build broad based support for our mission
- Seek monetary and in-kind donations from our business, community, private/public grants and endowments through direct solicitation, grant application and or bartering of goods and services
- Capture and track constituents served from our projects and services
- Comply and demonstrate ability to work within established budgets
- Effectively arrange monthly board meetings and other work as assigned by the President or his/her designee
- Plan ahead and always anticipate what is wanted and needed and be out in front in seeing that we meet our goals and responsibilities to the community.

### Qualifications and Position Requirements:

- AA Degree and/or equivalent combination of education and experience
- Two years experience in sales, event management, customer service or volunteer management
- Demonstrated project management skills with high attention to detail and ability to multi task and delegate
- Demonstrated ability to inspire volunteers
- Strong relationship building skills
- Possess high energy, positive attitude
- Ability to maintain professional demeanor
- Must be a team player who can effectively work and interact with volunteers and the public
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Demonstrated presentation skills
- Proficient with Microsoft Office Suite more specifically MS Publisher, Adobe Photoshop or comparable software, database and spreadsheet management, e-mail software and Internet browsers
- Travel to Rota, Tinian, regional and Stateside may be required and will be funded by CCA as Contracting Party
- Evening and weekend work required

### Condition of Employment and Remuneration:

- Independent Contract Agreement - At Will, Exempt Contract Employment
- Contract remuneration \$25,000.00 to \$32,000.00 per annum depending on qualifications and experience.
- This position requires that you have a 2011-2012 CNMI Business License
- Please submit cover letter and resume by the deadline of **December 21, 2011 at 5:00PM** to the CCA email at [cca@ccamarianas.org](mailto:cca@ccamarianas.org), or hand deliver it to the CCA office located in Gualo Rai. Address your cover letter to Bud White, President of CCA, or to Maggie Camacho, Chair of the Selection Committee. For more information, please call our office at 682-0050



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-12-003

### Urgent Repair: Fuel Tank Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Piping, Rota Power Plant

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified contractors or firms for the Urgent Repair of Fuel Tanks Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Piping, Rota Power Plant, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The tanks have been cleaned and undergone API inspections and they are not currently in use. The piping or part of the piping may still be in use and they would be emptied by CUC and handed over for the necessary work through a mutually arranged schedule with the winning contractor. Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the consent decree noted as Stipulated Order No. 2 (SO 2).

The Scope-of-Work and Proposal package will be emailed, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100.00 for one set, upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working days, from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM local time, until December 9, 2011.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a mandatory site visit is scheduled for **November 28, 2011 at 10:30 AM (ChST)** at CUC Rota Power Plant No. 1, Songsong village, Rota to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or performance of work under the contract.

**One (1) Original and Seven(7) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "*RFP-12-003 – Urgent Repair: Fuel Tank Nos. R 1, R 3, R 4 & Pipeline, Rota Power Plant*" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 15, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

The Offeror is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

A Proposal Guarantee of 15 percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposers. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposers. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code, with the proposal.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 (ChST) on December 9, 2011**, to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Procurement & Supply Manager via email at [msablan@cucgov.net](mailto:msablan@cucgov.net); Ms. Mika Muna via email at [mika.muna@cucgov.org](mailto:mika.muna@cucgov.org); Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Project coordinator SO 2 via email at [venu@cucgov.net](mailto:venu@cucgov.net) and Mr. Edward Chargulaf, Technical Manager for Oil via email at [ed.char@cucgov.org](mailto:ed.char@cucgov.org).

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the interest of the government.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE  
Executive Director



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-12-004

### SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC GENERATION (Phase No. 2)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced Independent Power Producers (IPP) to supply electrical energy and other products generated from commercially proven Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) systems for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from suitably qualified developers from which the CUC intends to select one, or more, respondent(s) to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and install generation PV facilities that best fit the CUC requirements. Selected IPPs will be responsible for operating and maintaining all facets of the Generating Facility (ies) and for generating the required output as described in this RFP. The scope of services requested in this RFP shall include, but not be limited to, securing sites, all permits and approvals from governing agencies, and providing all labor, services and equipment necessary to design, procure, install, construct, test, commission, monitor, operate, and maintain fully operational Generating Facilities.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **December 01, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**, at CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Center in Saipan.

**One (1) original and Six (6) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-004 "Solar Photovoltaic Generation (Phase No. 2)" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **December 16, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **December 09, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address [msablan@cucgov.net](mailto:msablan@cucgov.net); Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address [mika.muna@cucgov.org](mailto:mika.muna@cucgov.org); and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via address email [wallon59@yahoo.com](mailto:wallon59@yahoo.com). CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE  
Executive Director



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXI, Issue No. 294Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## Harry Potter and the imagination thief

By TALYA MEYERS  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

For someone so famous for inspiring the imaginations of her readers, J.K. Rowling now seems determined to cut them off at the pass. In the introductory video for her new interactive website, Pottermore, she makes the announcement that the site will contain “additional information that I’ve been hoarding for years about the world of Harry Potter.”

One of the major draws of the site, still in testing stage, is the opportunity for Rowling fans to learn character histories and trivia about the boy wizard’s magical world. But the idea of Pottermore is chilling for scholars who parse literary works for their deeper meaning—preferably on their own.

This isn’t the first time that Rowling has given her readers “new” information about her famous characters. She has said that she had wanted the epilogue of the last book, “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows,” to be vague, leaving out “every bit of information I could.” Yet when Rowling gives interviews or discusses the series, she gives details about what the lives of the characters—major and minor—are like after the story ends. Perhaps most famously, Rowling announced in 2007 that professor Albus Dumbledore, the brilliant Hogwarts headmaster, is gay.

So what’s wrong with a little bit of post-publication background information? For me, it is possibility. As a graduate student of English literature, one of the things I most love about reading, and one of the first things I teach my students, is that you don’t need to know whether Desdemona had sisters or what happened to Lady Macbeth’s child to understand the work in front of you. Everything you need is at your fingertips. Your job as a reader is to use your imagination and analytical skills where the author has left off.

I also have come to embrace the concept of “intentional fallacy”—the idea that what an author means to say isn’t necessarily important to interpreting a literary work. It’s what she does say, and how a reader interprets it, that really matters. Rowling can tell us now what characters go on to do for a living or the significance of wand woods, but if these things aren’t explicated in her books, we’re free to disagree with her and interpret what’s in the text for ourselves.

But Rowling seems determined to be the wellspring of outside-the-text facts about Harry Potter’s world, which cuts off the kind of imagining that is usually left to readers. Some readers might have seen Dumbledore as gay; others might have viewed him as quirky and without a particular sexual identity. Both could be “right,” but with her post-publication pronouncements, Rowling has limited our possibilities. On Pottermore, Rowling may provide an imaginative experience for the site’s visitors, but it’s really her imagination, not her visitors’. This will make readers’ roles more passive and less creative.

But perhaps readers simply need something beyond imagination and analysis: the will to believe in their own reading. I’m reminded of the ghost in “Hamlet,” and how little we really know about him. Is the story he tells Hamlet—that he is the spirit of his murdered father and should be avenged—true? Is he a hellish apparition sent to lure Hamlet to commit an “unnatural murder” of his own? Or is he just a figment of Hamlet’s imagination? No one really knows, and that’s part of the fun. It’s a very different play depending on which view you take.

But what if Shakespeare were able to tell us from the grave that, in fact, Hamlet imagined the whole thing? A lot of what makes the play great would be lost to us, until we remember that we’re the readers, and our perspective is what matters. So who cares what Shakespeare thinks, anyway?

Talya Meyers is pursuing a doctorate in English literature at Stanford University. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



## Why we must climb the mountain in us

Why do people climb mountains? Because they are there. Others climb mountains to accept the challenge. Many of us do not care why and do not think about it. But how about the mountain inside of us that calls for a challenge from us daily?

When we stand at the base of a mountain, we see its beauty and grandeur. We are forced to raise our heads upward seeking the peak. And when we do, we also see the sky with its majesty. Something inside of us stirs and prods us to climb it. However many of us just turn and walk away missing the mystery and surprises it holds for us. How sad for those of us who walk away!

Mountain peaks are never crowded. Why? Because it’s hard work. Not many people desire to climb mountains. It’s lonesome and we have to leave everything behind to do it. We will likely get lots of scratches and bumps, and it might even cost us our life.

Let’s look at the mountain of life that each of us face daily. I like to call it the Mountain of Accomplishment. Let’s ask ourselves: “How high have we climbed it at the age we are today?” Are we taking any risks as we climb it? Or are we just standing and looking up at it?

To successfully climb our mountain of accomplishment, we have to pack several things. One of the most important is the item called “desire.” As we pack it carefully in our backpack, we place “determination” and “discipline” next to it. With those three items neatly packed, we begin our journey to our goal—the peak.

As we begin our climb, our guide named Education turns to us and asks us if we have any skills or special training that will aid us as we climb. Have we completed high school? Are we doing any studying to improve our climbing skills? Education hands us several catalogues from which we can choose various training skills.

The one I selected is the Harcourt Learning Center which is a home study student service center. The catalog lists at least 60 ways Harcourt can help us get a better job through its home study courses. Our guide Education tells us this is only one of many home study centers that are available when we get the desire, determination and discipline to begin climbing our mountain.

To mention only a few, I noticed courses in accounting, business management, computer repairs, interior decorator, child care management, bookkeeping, and many others. He also mentioned that I could attend the Northern Marianas Trades Institute and master a trade such as carpentry, painting, masonry, electrical, culinary arts and others. If we are going to climb our mountain successfully, we surely need one or more of the above skills.

The CNMI needs many trained technicians, semi-professionals and skilled employees. Yet when business asks for them, few people show up. We remain as children looking through the window seeing all the opportunities and wonder why we cannot have them. As a result, businesses resort to hiring non-resident workers. We com-

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



plain that we will not work for a lousy minimum wage, but the truth is that when a resident worker possesses a good skill, the employer will pay a fair market wage.

Think of all the air conditioners, all the TVs, small appliances, auto repairs, home appliances, and the multitude of other needs that need repairing. But sadly how many of us can do this kind of work? The hospital needs nurses, practical nurses, aides and other technical assistance, but how many of us qualify? How many local nutritionists do we have on island? On and on!

Let’s meet some famous mountain climbers who climbed actual mountains. One of the most famous is Sir Edmund Hillary, the first person to reach the top of Mount Everest, the mightiest mountain on earth on May 29, 1953. Along with him was Tenzing Norgay, a Nepalese mountaineer.

Junko Tabei, a Japanese woman mountaineer, was the first woman to reach Mount Everest on May 16, 1975. She also was the first woman to complete the Seven Summits, the highest peaks on the seven continents.

Here are some famous people who charged up their inner mountain and reached the peak successfully. Consider Sam Walton and Ray Kroc, two famous business people. Have you heard of Carl Sagan and Louis Pasteur, two famous scientists? Thomas Merton and Aldous Huxley are two famous writers. Next to them were Albert Schweitzer and Socrates famous as philosophers. Close behind them were musicians Sergei Prokofiev and Aldan Berg. Two famous spiritual leaders joined them at the peak, St. Paul and St. Francis Assisi. There have been thousands of others.

Even severely handicapped people climbed their mountain. Did you know that Thomas Edison had a learning disability and didn’t begin reading until he was 12 years old? Franklin D. Roosevelt suffered from polio and could barely walk, but he was elected four times to be president of the United States. Helen Keller was born deaf, blind and mute, but she climbed her mountain successfully.

Then there is Stephen Hawkins, a brilliant physicist and mathematician, who suffers from Lou Gehrig’s disease and is in a wheel chair. He needs a computer to speak. Let’s not forget Erik Weickenmayer who is the only blind person to have climbed the “Seven

See WHY on Next Page



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Mampos asgun i chalan

**G**i talulu' gi halom koku na kahan gobietnamentu, sige hit man-ñgaha' hulu gi lañget para ta apogsu' haf' taimanu man-la'la' hit gi rimulinon sumen bahu na ekonomian tano'ta. I man-hoben man-afaisen hafa mohon para futuron niha gi un' asgun yan ti asegauru na chalan? Guaha esperansa para siha? Hafa propiu na aksion siña mapetsige pot para umak-echule' tatte futuron niha mismu? Mauleg na asuntu lau siha ha' siña umoppe ennuu siha na kuestion.

Hagas man-manotisia hit para ta aregla asuntun abusun hutnale-ros guine. Lau finagchae' bula fiñkas gi kahan Marianas. Ta letke i asuntu sa' oran gupot. Kada dia hit man-gupot. Uttimoña man-machule' guan hit nu ayu na fuetsa i disposision immigrasion guine. Tinatiye este 'nai ma-implementa sueddon federat guine. Dis-pues, pinalo'pu' 'nai man-hanau i mas man-dañkulu na kometsiante ginen tano'ta. I hiniyoñg niha, ha batsalan huyoñg \$3-5 biyon pesus ni hagas manaliliku' guine.

I World Trade Organization ha baba i metkau para todun ginen iya Asia gi mabenden produktun niha. Este na disision pumunu' i bintahan iya Marianas gi mafabrikan magagu siha yan todun para u fan mamafatinas guine (manufacturing).

Kau i miserable na lina'la' natibu i guinifen federat? Kau i diskuidon man-ma'gasta i premiun i publiku pagu?

Gi mismu tiempu mas ñaba' konsiderasion asuntun publiku. Este na diskuidu mas lokue' didog na estau chinatsaga 'nai ha pega ha'anen linahyan. Kau este uttimu rekueddun miyu nu i publiku ni hagas umensinahyau ayudu ginen i kabesanten i tanu'?

I futuron man-hoben kulan un' estoria 'nai mañoda' un' pitbetsun

### Letter to the Editor

## Term of endearment

Keith Brooks' response to Paul Beebe on the Tuesday edition has a disclaimer about using a racist term save his use of Uncle Ben, which in some places does have racist connotations. We do not disagree, but we differ in that it is also a term of endearment in many places in Asia—Uncle and Auntie being a honorific title to anyone one considers as belonging to one's kind, racial or otherwise. There is a double entendre usage, perhaps, with regards to "Uncle Ben," our governor, but then, paradoxes is a common fare in this part of the world, the taiji/yin-yang, being the primary symbol in East Asia. So references to Uncle Ben might be needling, after a fashion, at least, from our end, but it is not meant to be unkind.

**Jaime Vergara**  
via email

### WHY

From Page 10

Summits" or the seven tallest peaks on every continent.

How do we compare to these people? Are they so different from us in their desire to climb their inner mountains? What did they get from their adventures of inner mountain climbing?

They received sheer joy! And joy, is after all, the end of life. They also each received a pride and feeling of accomplishment that we long for. We do not live to eat and make money. We eat and make money to be able to enjoy life. Height has nothing to do with our mountain. It is our strength and courage that counts. Climbing is, after all, a matter of integrity.

By now we either have stopped reading and wondering what am I driving at or we understand the message. The economic success for our country and for ourselves depends on how determined we are to climb our inner mountain. We all have great capabilities within ourselves, but for some strange reason we keep cheating ourselves.

Recall when we were young. What has happened to the dreams of our youth? Why do we stress to our children to climb mountains when we have stopped climbing? Ask ourselves what has happened to our desire, determination and discipline?

No foreign investors can help us. No government can help us. We must help ourselves. Look within ourselves and let's do it! Let's get off our butts (excuses). It's never too late. I know this for a fact.

I don't accept excuses in my life. And neither should you. Come on, let's get off our butts and start climbing. The view is breathtaking. See you at the top!

And don't forget to SMILE along the way! It is the greatest gift to share with someone. Have a great weekend!

patgon un' pechun gi halom tanu'. Ha gu'ot ya ilegña para u faisen i menhalom na amku' i señsoñg kau lalala' 'sino matai i pechun. Maseha hafa ineppaña i amku', para u chogue i atlibes. 'An ilegña matai, para u sotta, 'an lalala', para u tiges. Sige ha estotba i amku' estake inatan futmat ya ilegña: 'Lahihu, i pechun gaige gi dos pat-man kanaimu.'

Yangin i futuru, pagu, pues atan ya un' ebalua kau este na modun lina'la' in' guiguife? Maseha hafa ineppemu, cha'mu malelefa na sumasaunau hau guine na asuntu kumu botadot. Pagu na biahe, mauleg un' hassu kabales haye propiu na kandidatu fitme, edukau yan listu para u esgaihon i linahyan para i yanu na plaset linala.'

Megai mampos seriousu na asuntun linahyan pagu kulan man-manunog gi tatten pisagra. Adahe para u ma-u'upus i sumen makat yan miserable na modun linala' gi señsoñg siha. Gi mismu tiempu, todun tumuñgu' na ti este mapromesa i publiku gi ma'pos na eleksion. I inefrese, "better times". Enfin, kuantu minagahetña este na promesa gi linala' miyu pagu?

Maseha maletke i asuntu, ti matulaika i katgun responsablidad na debi u guaha satton na finacho'chu' i man-ma'gas plumaneha fu-

## A Cuban conundrum

**T**wo years ago, Cuban counterintelligence officers arrested Alan P. Gross, a U.S. Agency for International Development subcontractor, as he boarded a plane in Havana for the United States. Later convicted in a closed trial of crimes against the state for smuggling sophisticated telecommunications equipment into Cuba, Gross is serving a 15-year prison sentence. Obama administration officials have declared that relations with Cuba will remain frozen until Gross is released, but the administration has not been willing to take the aggressive steps necessary to win his freedom. Gross' fate, like Cuba policy generally, is now being sacrificed to electoral politics in Florida.

Ironically, if Gross were a CIA officer, he would probably be free by now. In 2010, Washington traded 10 Russian "sleeper" agents for four Russians jailed in Moscow for spying for the West. In 1979, President Jimmy Carter crafted an informal bargain in which Cuba released four CIA agents imprisoned since the 1960s, in exchange for clemency for four Puerto Rican nationalists convicted of attempting to assassinate U.S. government officials in the 1950s. The history of the Cold War is replete with such trades. The CIA takes care of its own.

But Gross did not work for the CIA. He worked \_ in his words, as a "trusting fool" \_ for a USAID contractor participating in a U.S. government-funded democracy-building program. He traveled several times to Cuba on a tourist visa carrying computers, cellphones and satellite communications technology for independent nongovernmental organizations and individuals in Cuba's Jewish community.

The Cuban government regards USAID's democracy-promotion program as subversive, geared to foment regime change. It arrested Gross, a bit player in this larger diplomatic drama, to send Washington the message that Cuba will not tolerate such actions. U.S. officials expected that once the Cubans had made their point, they would free Gross on humanitarian grounds. But that hasn't happened. As Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez told the New York Times in September, any humanitarian release would have to be based on "reciprocity."

By that, Havana means the release of the so-called Cuban Five—five intelligence officers dispatched to the United States in the 1990s to spy on militant anti-Castro groups in the Cuban-American community and imprisoned here since 1998. Their prolonged incarceration is a cause celebre in Cuba, and one can only assume that Cuban security officials are just as intent on looking after their own as are intelligence agencies everywhere.

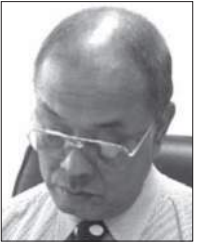
When Jimmy Carter traveled to Cuba in March, his hosts floated the idea of an informal swap modeled on the release of the CIA agents and Puerto Rican nationalists in 1979. Carter has publicly called for the release of both Gross and the Cuban Five, albeit without linking the cases.

Thus far, however, the Obama administration has been unwilling to even consider such an exchange because of the inflammatory politics of the Cuban Five case in Miami's Cuban-American community. When former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson went to Havana in September hoping to negotiate Gross' release, the State Department gave him only a meager list of reciprocal U.S. actions to offer. The Cubans indignantly refused to let Richardson even meet with Gross.

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.*



turon i tano'ta desde ekonomia, hinemlu', edukasion yan homlu' na kinalamten gi halom tautauta. Responsablidad este ni finañagun i konstitusion. Pot fabot rinueba haf' kinemprenden miyu pot responsablidad offisiat publiku.

Sige si Pedro yan Juan Malas dumibate pot fuetsan tinayuyot. Ilegña si Pedro Malas, "Ni unu gi ginagauhu mafattu ginen hilu". Finaisen as Juan Malas, "Ke lau hafa ha' ginagagaumu Duñg?" "Para bai' gana i mas dañkulu na lottery giya America". "Mamahan hau esta tekit para ennuu na lottery?" "Ahe! Lau i puntu i para un' fan gagau gi tinayuyotmu". "Ti u fattu ginagaumu mientras ti un' fafahan i tekit, pindehote!"

**By WILLIAM M. LEOGRANDE and PETER KORNBLUH**  
Los Angeles Times



*William M. LeoGrande is dean of the School of Public Affairs at American University in Washington. Peter Kornbluh is a senior analyst at the National Security Archive at George Washington University. They are the co-authors of the forthcoming book "Talking with Castro: The Untold History of Dialogue Between the United States and Cuba." They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.*

If Obama's political advisers think that refusing to trade the Cuban Five for Gross will insulate the president from political heat on the issue, they don't know south Florida. Republicans are already referring to Gross as a "hostage" and excoriating Obama for not forcing Cuba (somehow) to release him. From a strictly political calculus, Obama would be better off securing Gross' release and getting the issue off the electoral agenda.

But the real concern ought to be safeguarding Gross' well-being by finding an expeditious path to win his freedom. At present, the administration has put itself in a Catch-22: It won't take any further initiatives to improve relations while Gross remains in jail, but the poor state of relations with Cuba is the main obstacle to his release. Based on the lessons of previous prisoner releases and successful negotiations with Cuba, the administration needs to take a more proactive approach.

The first steps should be aimed at improving the poisonous bilateral atmosphere between the two countries. The administration should allow Rene Gonzalez, the one member of the Cuban Five who has completed his prison sentence, to return home rather than forcing him to stay in Florida on parole for three more years. Obama should also remove Cuba from the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism, where it has remained since 1982 only as a vestige of Havana's support for Latin American revolutionaries during the Cold War.

Then the diplomatic stage will be set for a serious dialogue with the Cubans about what steps each side can take toward the release of both Gross and the Cuban Five. As the main bargaining chip, the administration should be ready to revamp the program that landed Gross in prison in the first place, redefining it to foster genuine people-to-people linkages, not creation of potential internal opposition. Successfully negotiating Gross' release would serve not only a laudable humanitarian purpose but a wider diplomatic one as well.






Henry Kissinger, ever the realist, understood that dealing effectively with Cuba would sometimes require Washington to take the lead. "It is better to deal straight with Castro," he advised his aides before sending them to begin negotiations. "Behave chivalrously; do it like a big guy, not like a shyster." If Obama wants to welcome Gross home before another anniversary of his arrest rolls around, he should follow Kissinger's dictum.



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79

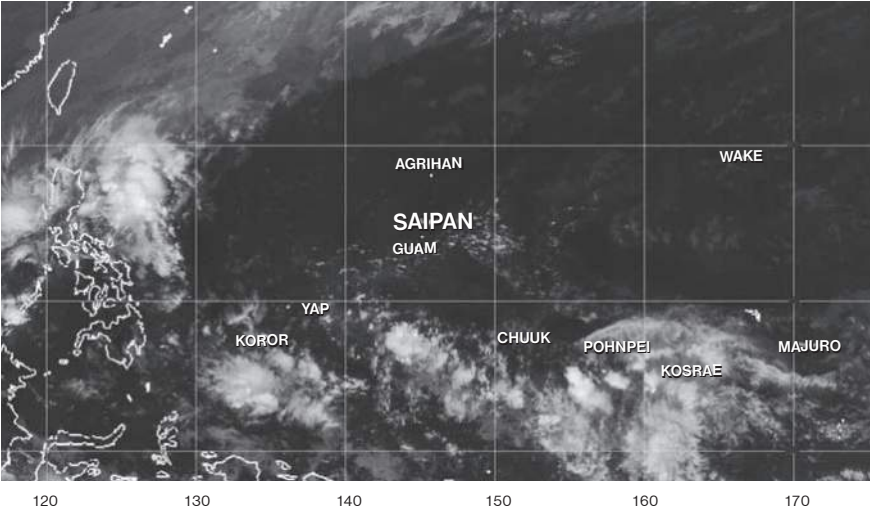
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 69 ▼ 64
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 39 ▼ 21
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 62
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 80 ▼ 71
London	Showers	▲ 48 ▼ 38
Los Angeles	Showers	▲ 56 ▼ 41
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 75
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 65 ▼ 53
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 68
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 33
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 55 ▼ 43
Paris	Showers	▲ 45 ▼ 40
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 53 ▼ 41
Rome	Rain	▲ 61 ▼ 45
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 43 ▼ 30
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 44
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 43 ▼ 31
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 51 ▼ 41
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 34

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:36 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
9:45 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:08 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
7:44 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2011**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front extends southwestward from 25N143E to beyond 130E at 19N. Extensive cloud cover and scattered showers are found along and up to 500 miles northwest of this boundary including Iwo To island. A near-equatorial trough runs eastward through a weak circulation southwest of Koror near 5N133E to end south of Chuuk near EQ146E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located south of Koror and Yap between 7N and 2N from 132E to 140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south southwest of Chuuk within 90 miles of a line from 8N143E to EQ156E. A trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Kosrae and just east of Pohnpei between 8N and the equator from 156E to 165E. Trade wind convergence is generating scattered showers east of Majuro between 10N and 6N from 172E to the date line.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Tuesday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Wednesday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Thursday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Friday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:16 PM	7:39 AM
Tuesday	8:10 PM	8:27 AM
Wednesday	9:05 PM	9:14 AM
Thursday	9:59 PM	9:58 AM
Friday	10:53 PM	10:41 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 6, 2011

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)</b> C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05070 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:35am Daily DL297 4:35pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/179 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:10am 2:20pm 1, 2, 4, 6 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# MHS glee club, violinist win 'Saipan Got Talent'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidEE\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Marianas High School's 14-member Rhythm and Harmony Glee Club and violinist Allan Tudela tied to bag the first prize at the pioneering "Saipan Got Talent" competition which highlighted Bridge Capital LLC's 2011 Christmas party on Saturday night at Pacific Islands Club.

But before the evening ended, all the 13 participating groups and individuals came home as winners and a bit richer than they were before the competition.

"We're so proud of this number. We have really worked hard for this competition," MHS Rhythm and Harmony Glee Club president Mariel Ferrer said in an interview after the winners were announced.

Ferrer said the \$1,000 prize would go a long way in helping their programs and activities for the promotion of the arts. Ferrer thanked the whole group, Bridge Capital, their choreographer Paul Dujua and advisor Harold Easton.

A five-member panel of judges that included Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) also bestowed the second prize on singer John Ronald Darag and the third prize on pianist Cloency Zuriel Chua. The fourth prize went to Ray Lizama and Jonelle Torres



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Members of Marianas High School's Rhythm and Harmony Glee Club perform their winning piece, "One Short Day," from the musical "Wicked," during Bridge Capital LLC's "Saipan Got Talent" competition at Pacific Islands Club on Saturday night. The group tied with violinist Allan Tudela for the top prize.

for their interpretative dance.

The first place winners each got \$1,000; the second place winner, \$500; third place, \$200; and fourth place, \$100.

But Bridge Capital LLC principal and chief executive officer John K. Baldwin later called on the eight other participating groups and individuals and gave them \$100 each.

They included J.R. Cadua who played the guitar; 3C's Kids Legacy which performed modern dance; Project Impact which had a dance number; Azenith Madalo Avila which gave a song number; pianist Ji

Hoe Yeom; guitar and violin duo Abel Pellegrino and Jeongwan Kim; "Nestea" with his comedic interpretative dance; and pianist Edward Minami.

Baldwin, in an interview, said young people with creative talents often don't get the appreciation that they deserve or don't get appreciated as much as athletes or sports figures. He said Bridge Capital wanted to give these individu-

als an opportunity to showcase their artistic or creative talents. But Bridge Capital is also a big supporter of sports events and sports themes.

"There's such a talent on the island. We did not limit it to just the young people but for the most part only young people were interested. Tonight's performances were absolutely unbelievable. It was more than I ever would have dreamed and

I want to encourage the young people," Baldwin said.

He said Bridge Capital's "Saipan Got Talent" competition was thought of as a one-time event, but given the success of Saturday night's showcase of artistic talents, Bridge Capital may hold it annually.

Moreover, Bridge Capital plans to partner with the organizers of the annual Flame Tree Arts Festival next year.

Besides Inos, the other judges were U.S. Office of Insular Affairs field representative Jeff Schorr, Docomo's Nola Hix, and Hawaiian artist Roland Naauao. Jon Anderson of Guam was the evening's master of ceremony.

Bridge Capital also raffled off several prizes for employees and guests in between performances. The major prize was a 32-inch flat screen television.

## Gold's Gym Saipan announces changes to its management team



Cruz



Nelson



Tudela

Gold's Gym Saipan is pleased to announce the promotion of Brett Nelson to general manager of the island's premier full-service fitness center.

The 36-year-old Nelson previously served as operations manager and personal trainer and holds a NASM (National Academy of Sports Medicine) personal training certification.

"We are excited to promote from within. Brett was part of the original opening team in 1996 and will continue to assist clients with their fitness goals. Brett brings a perfect combination of proven experience and extensive knowledge of gym operations. In his new capacity, Brett will assume the management duties of day to day operations as well as oversee the development of the personal training program to include a variety of certified personal trainers," said Marianas Fitness dba Gold's Gym presi-

dent Russ Quinn.

Joel Tudela will assume the new position of sales and marketing manager. Tudela is a student at NMC and Argosy University, seeking his BS in Criminal Justice. He has also been working part time at Gold's since last year. A native to Saipan, Tudela brings tremendous enthusiasm to his new position and will seek to further expand and promote Gold's Gym on island.

Natalie Cruz has been elevated to the position of supervisor. Cruz is a longtime resident of Saipan and a mother of three. Her friendly disposition and outstanding service make her an ideal choice to welcome members and visitors to Gold's Gym Saipan.

Gold's Gym is located in China Town, adjacent to Sugar King Park. Call 233-4000 for more information. (PR)

## Military to conduct Training on FDM, WA-517

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—The U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force, and U.S. Marine Corps will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on the following dates and times:

- Dec. 12 from 8am to 11pm
- Dec. 13-14 from 8am to 11pm
- Dec. 15 from 8am to 11pm
- Dec. 16 from 7am to 10pm
- Dec. 17 from 8am to 11pm

The Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps will conduct training at Warning Area 517 (W-517) on

the following dates and times:

- Dec. 12 from 9:30am to 6:30pm
- Dec. 13-14 from 8:30am to 6pm
- Dec. 15 from 8:30am to 6pm
- Dec. 16 from 8:30am to 6pm

The general public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Faral-

lon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. (PR)

## Sequoia completes 80-day multi-mission patrol in Pacific

**APRA HARBOR, Guam**—The crew of the Coast Guard cutter *Sequoia* arrived back in Guam after an 80-day deployment, Friday.

The crew of the *Sequoia* began their journey by working aids to navigation in Saipan. After completing their work on Saipan, the crew made the 3,797-mile journey to Honolulu. Once there the crew completed their bi-annual Tailored Ship Training Availability cycle with Navy and Coast Guard shipriders from the Afloat Training

Group Pacific.

The crew also provided security during the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meetings in Honolulu attended by 21 heads of state, to include President Barack Obama Nov. 7-11.

In the middle of November, the crew departed Honolulu to conduct fisheries enforcement in support of Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission objectives and to support U.S. and Republic of Marshall Islands bilateral fisheries enforcement goals.

The *Sequoia* crew, in support of embarked officers from Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority and the RMI Sea Patrol, conducted several boardings in the RMI's Exclusive Economic Zone. The results were the discovery of illegal fishing activities including shark finning and the illegal discharge of oil into the sea. The Coast Guard and Marshall Island boardings were conducted in support of the agreement between the United States and the Government of the Republic

of Marshall Islands concerning cooperation in maritime surveillance and interdiction activities.

The *Sequoia* is a 225-foot seagoing buoy tender homeported in Apra Harbor, Guam. The *Sequoia* primarily works ATON located in the Western Pacific countries of Guam, Saipan, Rota, Tinian and Kwajalein Atoll. The *Sequoia* conducts a wide range of missions that are vital to Homeland Security, and to the government's responsibility to ensure the nation's safety and prosperity. (USCG)

## Employers must now use standard I-9 in the CNMI

### » USCIS reminds employers that use of Form I-9 CNMI ended on Nov.27

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is reminding employers that beginning on Nov. 28, 2011, they must begin using the standard Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, for all new

hires. The final day to use Form I-9 CNMI was Nov. 27, 2011.

You can get information related to Form I-9:

1. At [www.uscis.gov/I-9Central](http://www.uscis.gov/I-9Central) you can find additional in-

formation including:

- Handbook for Employers
- What's New
- Form I-9 Guidance for Employers Hiring Individuals in the CNMI

2. By calling DHS at 888-464-4218; and

3. From the Office of Special Counsel for Immigration-Relat-

ed Unfair Employment Practices at [www.osc.gov](http://www.osc.gov).

For other CNMI-related information from USCIS, the agency within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that handles immigration benefits, please visit the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov/cnmi](http://www.uscis.gov/cnmi). (USCIS)





CLARISSA V. DAVID

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, vice president for Finance Lina Dimaano, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance executive director Sam Sablan, and MINA board member Ryan Okano join some 50 executives and managers from various Tan Holdings affiliates at the launching of the tree planting project at the Susupe Beach Park on Saturday morning.

# Tan Holdings unveils tree planting initiative

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
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REPORTER

Responding to the increasing demand for improved environmental stewardship in the CNMI, Tan Holdings launched over the weekend its first ever tree planting project as part of its Going Green initiative.

Some 50 executives and managers from various Tan Holdings affiliates were up early on Saturday to volunteer for the event that involved the planting of 70 tree saplings at the Susupe Beach Park which the diverse holding company has adopted for several years.

The tree saplings—comprised of nonak, kafu, daok, and talisai trees—along with the fertilizer tablets were provided by the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance which was represented at

the event by its executive director Sam Sablan and board member Ryan Okano.

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, who planted the first sapling by the seashore, said in his remarks that the tree planting project is the “beginning of another environmental effort” in addition to monthly beach cleanups, recycling program, and sponsorship of MINA’s Adopt-A-Bin program.

He urged Tan Holdings executives and managers to continue the project, saying that planting trees and flowers throughout the island is needed for the revival of the CNMI’s tourism industry as affirmed by a top Japanese tourism executive during one of Tan’s recent off-island trips.

“It’s what tourists would like to see here compared to other competing destinations,” Tan

said as he emphasized that the tree planting project is not only important for tourists but also for the local community.

Century Insurance finance manager Rene Carias, who helped dig the soil where the saplings will be planted, said he immediately confirmed his presence when Tan Holdings management called for volunteers for the event.

“I feel satisfied and fulfilled knowing that I have done my part to help minimize erosion and its impact to our oceans,” Carias told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fiesta Resort accounting manager Noemi Catigan, who echoed Carias’s fulfillment, said she plans to check on the three trees she helped plant as well as share with her daughter the importance of planting trees to the environment.

“It’s really essential that she learns about the value of trees to preserve the environment for her own future,” said Catigan.

Fiesta Resort public and employer relations manager Elena Soll, for her part, said the launching of the tree planting project is a “monumental” feat for Tan Holdings in its efforts to save the environment.

“Tree planting doesn’t have to be a big event,” Soll pointed out. “You can plant a tree anytime and in your own backyard. We should encourage planting trees because trees are beautiful.”

The tree planting project is only one of several projects which Tan Holdings will carry out to help the environment, according to Tan Holdings vice president for finance Lina Dimaano, who has spearheaded the company’s Going Green initiative.

Dimaano said the tree planting project will be conducted by Tan Holdings at least on a quarterly basis. “This is also part of our commitment from Tan Holdings to really always have a greener environment,” she said.

MINA executive director Sablan said in an interview that Tan Holdings has been the leading business organization participating in environmental efforts on Saipan.

“I think it’s really great. I just wish that other businesses would look at Tan Holdings as a model, the icon for businesses going green,” she said.

Sablan noted the importance of businesses getting involved in environmental efforts in the community.

“Businesses influence the consumers in how they act, how they

behave, how they think,” said Sablan. “They’re in the forefront of changing behaviors... For the business to take on the initiative to really lead and change the behavior in the community, it’s important because they deal directly with the community as a whole and they have a broader impact in getting the community to change their ways.”

Sablan urged the rest of the community to do their share in protecting the environment.

“I know the economy is really taking a toll in how we behave. But always think long-term on what we can do as a community member. Think about your children. Even if it requires you to suffer today, so be it so long as you provide enough for the future generations. Again, it’s all about committing yourself today for our tomorrow,” she said.



◀ Two men rake dry leaves at the Susupe Beach Park before the start of tree planting.  
CLARISSA V. DAVID

▶ Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, right, plants the first of the 70 tree saplings near the seashore. Looking on is vice president for Finance Lina Dimaano, left, who spearheaded the event.  
CLARISSA V. DAVID

▼ Senior vice president Eli Arago and Ladyvir Canape pose for a photo after planting a sapling.  
CLARISSA V. DAVID



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan Tribune human resource manager Malou Ernest, second from right, is joined by fellow Tan Holdings managers at the tree planting event.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Jerry Tan, Tan Holdings president, addresses the 50 executives and managers who volunteered for the tree planting event on Saturday.



# Business

## UK Treasury chief defends Cameron's EU treaty veto

**LONDON** (AP)—Britain's Treasury chief defended Prime Minister David Cameron's decision to veto changes to the European Union treaty, saying Saturday the move protected U.K. economic interests.

Cameron rejected an invitation to join 26 European partners in a tighter financial alliance to save the euro which he said didn't adequately protect Britain's national interest and meant giving up too much control over regulation of Britain's dominant financial sector.

The move isolated Cameron from the European Union and raised doubts about whether Britain realistically can remain a member of the 27-nation bloc—prompting cheers from the prime minister's typically anti-EU party and jeers from the opposition.

Britain's typically brash media reflected the divide Saturday, with The Guardian headline "Cameron Cuts UK Adrift" battling against the Daily Mail's "The Day He Put Britain First."

Treasury chief George Osborne defended Cameron on BBC radio, saying he thinks Britons are pleased the prime minister "stood up for the British national interest."

"We have protected Britain's financial services and manufacturing companies that need to be able to trade their products into Europe from the development of eurozone integration spilling over and affecting non-euro members of the EU," he said.

Osborne added that if the prime minister had "caved in" to signing the treaty, the "full force" of the EU could have undermined British interests.

"We were not prepared to let that happen," he said.

Osborne's vote of confidence echoed support from other Conservative lawmakers over the prime minister's move to set Britain apart.

But Cameron also is facing a chorus of criticism from the opposition Labour Party and growing tensions with his Conservative Party's junior coalition partner, the Liberal Democrats.

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg has rejected talk of a rift between his Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives and backed Cameron's move, but dissent bubbled up from elsewhere in the party.

One Liberal Democrat lawmaker accused Cameron of "betraying Britain," while another

called the fallout "a black day for Britain and Europe."

Emboldened by Cameron's move, Conservatives stepped up calls for a full re-negotiation of Britain's position in the EU, but Liberal Democrat deputy leader Simon Hughes shot down that idea in an interview with Sky News, insisting the issue was "not on the table" and telling the Tories to "calm down."

In Italy, Premier Mario Monti has summoned union leaders to discuss his new austerity plan as lawmakers tinker with his tough proposals to try to rescue the country from its debt load and get the economy growing again.

Unions have bitterly contested Monti's proposal to reform Italy's generous pension system and have called a strike for Monday. Monti's office said Saturday the premier, fresh from the EU summit in Brussels, would meet with union leaders on Sunday to discuss the proposals.

Monti has also proposed restoring a property tax suspended during Premier Silvio Berlusconi's government. The proposal has renewed criticism of the tax-exempt status of the Catholic Church in Italy, even though the church merely enjoys the same tax-exempt status as any non-profit.



Cameron

## Obama says jobless rate could drop to 8 percent

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Setting a new bar for the nation's economy, President Barack Obama said the United States unemployment rate could fall to 8 percent before he faces reelection next November.

The unemployment rate, currently at 8.6 percent, hasn't been at or below 8 percent since he took office in January 2009 amid a global economic crisis.

In a "60 Minutes" interview to air Sunday night, the president was asked specifically whether he would get the rate back down to 8 percent before next fall's general election.

"I think it's possible," Obama said, according to excerpts of the interview provided by CBS.

"But ... I'm not in the job of prognosticating on the economy. I'm in the job of putting in place the tools that allow the economy to thrive and Americans to succeed."

Obama said that he didn't overpromise or underestimate the task of reviving the nation's economy but that it would likely extend beyond his presidency.

"I always believed that this was a long-term project," he said. "For individual Americans, who are struggling right now, they have every reason to be impatient. Reversing structural problems in our economy that have been building up for two decades, that was going to take time. It was going to take

more than a year. It was going to take more than two years. It was going to take more than one term. Probably takes more than one president."

In the interview, Obama likened himself to a sea captain guiding a ship through a bad storm. So long as the boat is rocking and people are getting sick, he said, people will blame the captain.

"People are going say, 'You know what? A good captain would have had us in some smooth waters and sunny skies, at this point,'" he said. "And I don't control the weather. What I can control are the policies we're putting in place to make a difference in people's lives."

time consumers had someone on their side."

### Italy's Catholic Church flexible on property tax

**ROME** (AP)—Italy's Catholic Church has shifted gears and shown a willingness to revisit its tax-exempt status amid renewed criticism that much of its vast real estate holdings isn't subject to local property taxes. The criticism has grown recently following Premier Mario Monti's proposal to restore a property tax on first and second homes as part of his sweeping austerity measures to help reign in Italy's massive debt. With ordinary Italians being asked to make sacrifices, the church is coming under fire to do its part and give up what some consider an unfair privilege. Critics, most prominently Italy's Radical Party, charge that the Italian government is missing out on millions of euros in potential taxes.

# Nation

## Gingrich assailed by rivals, fires back at Romney

**DES MOINES, Iowa** (AP)—Attacked as a lifelong Washington insider, newly minted Republican front-runner Newt Gingrich parried criticism from Mitt Romney in campaign debate Saturday night, telling the former Massachusetts governor, "The only reason you didn't become a career politician is because you lost to Teddy Kennedy in 1994."

"That's probably true," replied Romney, who lost that Senate contest. He then quipped that if he'd achieved

his childhood dream, "I would have been a football star all my life, too."

Gingrich defended himself against attacks from Texas Rep. Ron Paul and Minnesota Rep. Michele Bachmann as well as Romney, the former front-runner, in the first debate since he soared to the lead in polls nationally and in Iowa. The state's caucuses on Jan. 3 will kick off the competition for Republican National Convention delegates who will pick an opponent to President Barack Obama.



Republican presidential candidates former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, left, and former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, right, take part in the Republican debate, Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011, in Des Moines, Iowa.

## Va. Tech officer's widow says he was her 'idol'

**CHRISTIANSBURG, Va.** (AP)—The widow of a slain Virginia Tech police officer said Saturday that he was the love of her life and they had exchanged text messages about an hour before he was fatally shot by a man he apparently didn't know.

The Roanoke Times reports ( <http://bit.ly/rBH33C> ) that Tina Crouse said her family has been shattered by the shooting death Thursday of Officer Deriek Crouse as he sat in his cruiser. Police said they are looking for a motive for why 22-year-old Ross Truett Ashley shot Crouse, seemingly at random, on the school's campus and then killed himself.

Tina Crouse said the 39-year-old officer had texted her "Love you lots" at 11:20 a.m., about an hour before he was shot after pulling over a motorist who was not involved in the shooting. She responded, "Kisses!!!!!! Love you."

As word of the shooting spread and the campus was locked down, she said she texted her husband at 12:52 p.m., "What's going on?????" Three minutes later, she texted again, "I just need to Kno Ur ok."

She said she told herself he was busy with the emergency response but learned an hour later from her son that two people had come by the house looking for her. She dropped her coffee mug and her knees

All six Republicans on stage assailed Obama's handling of the economy, the overriding issue of the election, yet split down the middle on legislation making its way toward a year-end vote in Congress to extend a Social Security payroll tax cut into 2012.

Romney, Gingrich and Paul said they favored it. Bachmann, Texas Gov., Rick Perry and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum said they opposed the measure.

Whatever the impact of their differences on the presidential race, the internal disagreement could well portend difficulties for legislation that Obama has proposed and Republican leaders in Congress view as essential if the party is to avoid being tagged for raising taxes.

The tone of the debate was generally respectful, the stakes ever higher as six rivals met onstage in the Iowa capital city. The debate was the 12th since the long campaign began and the first since Herman Cain's candidacy imploded after allegations of sexual harassment and an extra-marital affair.

buckled, and then a car pulled into the parking lot of her cosmetology school.

"My first thought was, 'I wish I had kissed him better that morning,'" Tina Crouse, 37, told the newspaper at her Christiansburg home.

Tina Crouse said she and her husband met and became friends in high school and reconnected years later after their first marriages didn't work out. He had one son, she had four boys. Deriek Crouse, who had joined the Army Reserves after three years in the Army, mostly at Fort Hood, Texas, found her on the classmates.com web site as he waited to be taken to the war zone during his deployment to Iraq in 2004.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Obama presses GOP on consumer watchdog delay

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—President Barack Obama isn't backing down from demanding that Republicans confirm his pick to head a new consumer watchdog office, saying GOP lawmakers are depriving middle-class Americans of better protection against the kind of deceptive business practices that contributed to the financial meltdown. Every day that the country must wait for a director of the Consumer Financial Protection Board "is another day that dishonest businesses can target and take advantage of students, seniors and service members," Obama said Saturday in his weekly radio and Internet address. "So I refuse to take 'no' for an answer. Financial institutions have plenty of high-powered lawyers and lobbyists looking out for them. It's

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Police evict Occupy Boston protesters; 46 arrested

**BOSTON** (AP)—Police officers swept through Dewey Square early Saturday, tearing down tents at the Occupy Boston encampment and arresting dozens of protesters, bringing a peaceful end to the 10-week demonstration. Officers began moving into the encampment at about 5 a.m. to "ensure compliance with the trespassing law," police spokeswoman Elaine Driscoll said. The city had set a deadline for midnight Thursday for the protesters to abandon the

site but police took no action until early Saturday, making Boston the latest city where officials moved to oust protesters demonstrating against what they call corporate greed and economic injustice.

#### Friends say Hollywood gunman stung from breakup

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Authorities Saturday identified the gunman who was shot dead by police as he fired at cars on a Hollywood street—screaming he wanted to die. Friends said Tyler Brehm was stung by the breakup of a long relation-

ship. One passing motorist, a music industry executive, was shot in the face by the gunman Friday and remained in critical condition Saturday. Los Angeles County Coroner's Lt. Larry Dietz said Brehm's body would be examined later in the day. Brehm walked down the middle of Sunset Boulevard, firing on motorists with no clear target and injuring three of them until two police officers who just happened to be in the area—an off-duty motorcycle officer working movie set security and an LAPD detective—shot and killed him, authorities said.



# Asia

## US hostage lost in PH jungle for 2 days

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—A kidnapped American teenage boy escaped from suspected al-Qaida-linked militants and wandered without shoes for two days in a southern Philippine jungle before villagers found him, ending his five-month captivity, officials said Sunday.

Kevin Lunsman, 14, told his four armed captors that he would take a bath in a stream and then made a dash for freedom Friday in Basilan province, police Senior Supt. Edwin de Ocampo said. He followed a river down a mountain until villagers found him late the next day, de Ocampo said.

Exhausted, hungry and still stunned, the boy initially fled from the villagers, de Ocampo said.

"He was in fear so there was a bit of a chase before the villagers convinced him that they were friends," de Ocampo told The Associated Press. He said the boy was fine, but was exhausted and had bruises on his arms and feet.

Initial reports had said the boy was freed by his captors.

Zamboanga City Mayor Celso Lobregat said he has been

flown to Manila and turned over to U.S. officials there.

U.S. Ambassador Harry Thomas said the boy would be reunited with his family soon.

"In this holiday season nothing makes me happier than knowing that an innocent victim is returned to his family in time for holiday celebrations," Thomas said in a statement. "I also want to acknowledge the courage of Kevin himself, and his family, throughout this long ordeal."

Thomas said there would be a "speedy investigation and prosecution of all those involved in the kidnapping of American citizens."

Lobregat said the boy has talked by phone with his Filipino-American mother, Gerfa Yeatts Lunsman, who was in the United States. He, his mother and a Filipino cousin were vacationing with relatives on an island near Zamboanga City when they were snatched July 12 and taken by boat to nearby Basilan.

The captors then called the family in Campbell County, Virginia, to demand a ransom, officials said.

The mother was freed two months ago after she was dropped off by boat at a wharf on Basilan. The boy's Filipino cousin escaped from their captors last month when Filipino army forces managed to get near an Abu Sayyaf camp in the mountains of Basilan, about 550 miles (880 kilometers) south of Manila.

Lobregat said he was unaware if any ransom changed hands.

Ransom kidnappings have long been a problem in the impoverished region and are blamed mostly on the Abu Sayyaf, an al-Qaida-linked group on a list of U.S. terrorist organizations, and its allied armed groups. The militants are notorious for kidnappings, beheadings and bombings.

The Abu Sayyaf, which has less than 400 armed fighters, was founded on Basilan in the 1990s as an offshoot of a violent Muslim insurgency that has been raging for decades. Hundreds of U.S. troops have been stationed in the southern Philippines, including Basilan, to train and equip Philippine forces but are barred from local combat.

## US envoy calls on China to improve human rights

**BEIJING (AP)**—The U.S. ambassador to China on Saturday urged Beijing to improve its human rights record, pointing to imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo as an example where China falls short.

In a statement released on the U.N.'s International Human Rights Day, envoy Gary Locke said protection of human rights in China had not kept up with the country's massive economic gains.

Locke said the imprisonment of Liu and restrictions on the freedoms of his wife, the disappearance of human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng, the unlawful detention of Chinese citizens such as lawyer Chen Guangcheng, and constraints on the religious freedom and practices of Tibetan, Uighur (WEE'

gur) and Christian communities "do not bring China closer to achieving its stated goals."

Liu, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last year, is serving an 11-year prison sentence for co-authoring an appeal for political reform. His wife, Liu Xia, has largely been held incommunicado, effectively under house arrest, watched by police, without phone or Internet access and prohibited from seeing all but a few family members.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said Friday that Liu was in jail because he was a criminal. China defends its human rights record, saying it has vastly improved living conditions for its citizens.

Gao, a human rights lawyer who has represented religious dissenters and advocated consti-

tutional reform, has been missing for more than 18 months.

Chen, an activist lawyer who is blind, was released from jail a little more than a year ago, but authorities have turned his village in Shangdong province in eastern China into a no-go zone, where activists, foreign diplomats and reporters have been turned back and threatened.

Locke said Washington wants to build a partnership with China that includes regular talks on human rights issues. He said U.S. support for China reflects a belief that rule of the law and protection of "freedoms of expression, belief and assembly are critical to securing the growth, prosperity and long-term stability that China seeks and to realizing the full potential of its people."

fighters reported that the bodies were charred and that the dead included the pilot and the copilot—the only two people on the plane, Bernabe said.

### Lax safety cited in deadly hospital fire in India

**KOLKATA, India (AP)**—A private hospital in eastern India where dozens of people died in a massive fire failed to update its safety procedures despite being ordered to do so months ago, officials said Saturday. Most of the victims died in their beds from inhaling noxious black smoke that

filled the rooms and corridors of one of AMRI Hospital's three buildings after the fire broke out before dawn Friday in the basement and medical staff fled the scene. One more person died from injuries on Saturday, raising the death toll to 91. Six hospital directors were charged with culpable homicide, and were ordered by a court Saturday to be held in custody for 10 days while authorities investigate the fire. A seventh hospital director also charged in the case was to be brought before the court after being treated in a hospital for smoke inhalation.

# World

## Climate conference approves landmark deal

**DURBAN, South Africa (AP)**—A U.N. climate conference reached a hard-fought agreement Sunday on a far-reaching program meant to set a new course for the global fight against climate change.

The 194-party conference agreed to start negotiations on a new accord that would ensure that countries will be legally bound to carry out any pledges they make. It would take effect by 2020 at the latest.

The deal doesn't explicitly compel any nation to take on emissions targets, although

most emerging economies have volunteered to curb the growth of their emissions.

Currently, only industrial countries have legally binding emissions targets under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. Those commitments expire next year, but they will be extended for at least another five years under the accord adopted Sunday—a key demand by developing countries seeking to preserve the only existing treaty regulating carbon emissions.

The proposed Durban Platform offered answers to prob-

lems that have bedeviled global warming negotiations for years about sharing the responsibility for controlling carbon emissions and helping the world's poorest and most climate-vulnerable nations cope with changing forces of nature.

The United States was a reluctant supporter, concerned about agreeing to join an international climate system that likely would find much opposition in the U.S. Congress.

"This is a very significant package. None of us likes everything in it. Believe me, there is plenty the United States is not thrilled about," said U.S. climate envoy Todd Stern. But the package captured important advances that would be undone if it is rejected, he told the delegates.

Sunday's deal also set up the bodies that will collect, govern and distribute tens of billions of dollars a year for poor countries. Other documents in the package lay out rules for monitoring and verifying emissions reductions, protecting forests, transferring clean technologies to developing countries and scores of technical issues.



AP

German environment minister Norbert Roettgen, left, is seen at the climate change summit as it nears its end in the city of Durban, South Africa, Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011.

## Russia's stunning protests end with hint of change

**MOSCOW (AP)**—Tens of thousands of people held the largest anti-government protests that post-Soviet Russia has ever seen to criticize electoral fraud and demand an end to Vladimir Putin's rule. Police showed surprising restraint and state-controlled TV gave the nationwide demonstrations unexpected airtime, but there is no indication the opposition is strong enough to push for real change from the prime minister or his ruling party.

Nonetheless, the prime minister seems to be in a weaker position than he was a week ago, before Russians voted in parliamentary elections. His United Party lost a substantial share of its seats, although it retains a majority.

The independent Russian election-observer group Golos said Saturday that "it achieved the majority mandate by falsification," international observers reported widespread irregularities, and the outpouring of Russians publicly denouncing him throughout the country undermines Putin's carefully nurtured image of a strong and beloved leader.

Putin "has stopped being the national leader—in the eyes of his team, the ruling political class and society," analyst Alexei Malachenko of the Moscow Carnegie Center wrote on his blog.

Putin, who was the president of Russia in 2000-2008 before stepping aside because of term limits, will seek a new term in the Kremlin in the March pres-

idential elections. The protests have tarnished his campaign, but there is not yet any obvious strong challenger.

A statement released late Saturday by Putin's press secretary, Dmitry Peskov, acknowledged the day's protests by people "displeased" with the elections but noted demonstrations in support of the elections in recent days.

"We respect the point of view of the protestors, we are hearing what is being said, and we will continue to listen to them," the statement said. "The citizens of Russia have a right to express their point of view, in protest and in support, and those rights will continue to be secured as long as all sides do so in a lawful and peaceful manner."

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Strong quake shakes from Mexico City to Acapulco

**MEXICO CITY (AP)**—A 6.5-magnitude earthquake struck in Mexico's western Guerrero state Saturday night, shaking buildings and causing panic in the nation's capital and the Pacific resort of Acapulco. Officials said at least three people died, but there were no reports of widespread damage. The U.S. Geological Service initially estimated the quake at magnitude 6.8, but downgraded it to 6.7 and then

6.5. A quake of that magnitude is capable of causing severe damage, although the depth of this temblor lessened its impact. The USGS said the quake occurred at a depth of 40.3 miles (64.9 kilometers). It was centered about 26 miles (42 kilometers) southwest of Iguala in Guerrero and 103 miles (166 kilometers) south-southwest of Mexico City.

#### Israeli aircraft strike Gaza following rocket fire

**JERUSALEM (AP)**—Israeli

and Palestinian officials say Israeli aircraft have struck the Gaza Strip in retaliation for rocket fire into southern Israel. Palestinian health official Adham Abu Salmia says a missile hit the home of a Gaza militant who was not home at the time, but flying shrapnel wounded a 12-year-old girl and her father in a nearby house. The Israeli military said in a statement early Sunday that it targeted a weapons factory in response to rockets fired by Palestinian militants. The last rocket to hit Israel struck Saturday night.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Airplane crashes into Philippine school, 13 killed

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—A light airplane crashed into a school building Saturday near the Philippine capital after its pilot requested an emergency landing shortly after takeoff, killing at least 13 people, including two children. The plane burst into flames after hitting the school, said Mayor Florencio Bernabe of suburban Paranaque city. No classes were in session when the plane hit, but officials were determining how many on the ground were injured or killed, he said. Fire-



# Health & Fitness

## FDA revokes approval of Avastin for breast cancer

By LAURAN NEERGAARD  
AP MEDICAL WRITER

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The government delivered a blow to some desperate patients Friday as it ruled the blockbuster drug Avastin should no longer be used to treat advanced breast cancer.

Avastin is hailed for treating colon cancer and certain other malignancies. But the Food and Drug Administration said it appeared to be a false hope for breast cancer: Studies haven't found that it helps those patients live longer or brings enough other benefit to outweigh its dangerous side effects.

"I did not come to this decision lightly," said the FDA's commissioner, Dr. Margaret Hamburg. But she said, "Sometimes despite the hopes of investigators, patients, industry and even the FDA itself, the results of rigorous testing can be disappointing."

Avastin remains on the market to treat certain colon, lung, kidney and brain cancers. Doctors are free to prescribe any marketed drug as they see fit. So even though the FDA formally revoked Avastin's approval as a breast cancer treatment, women could still receive it—but their insurers may not pay for it. Some insurers already have quit in anticipation of FDA's long-expected ruling.

However, "Medicare will continue to cover Avastin," said Brian Cook, spokesman for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The agency "will monitor the issue and evaluate coverage options as a result of action by the FDA but has no immediate plans to change coverage policies."

Including infusion fees, a year's treatment with Avastin can reach \$100,000.

The ruling disappointed patients who believe Avastin is helping to curb their incurable cancer.

"It's saved my life," said a tearful Sue Boyce, 54, of Chicago. She's taken Avastin in addition to chemotherapy since joining a research study in 2003. Her breast cancer eventually spread to her lungs, liver and brain, but Boyce says she is stable and faring well.

"So I'm hoping the insurance company will grandfather me in to continue taking it," she said.

The Avastin saga began in

2008, when an initial study suggested the drug could delay tumor growth for a few months in women whose breast cancer had spread to other parts of the body. Over the objection of its own advisers and to the surprise of cancer groups, FDA gave Avastin conditional approval—it could be sold for such women while manufacturer Genentech tried to prove it really worked.

The problem: Ultimately, the tumor effect was even smaller than first thought. Across repeated studies, Avastin patients didn't live longer or have a higher quality of life. Yet the drug causes some life-threatening risks, including severe high blood pressure, massive bleeding, heart attack or heart failure and tears in the stomach and intestines, the FDA concluded. In two public hearings—one last year and one this summer—FDA advisers urged the agency to revoke that approval.

"The science is clear: Breast cancer patients are more likely to be harmed than helped by Avastin," said Diana Zucker-

man of the National Research Center for Women and Families in Washington. Genentech had argued the drug should remain available while it conducted more research to see if certain subsets of breast cancer patients might benefit, and some patients and their doctors had argued passionately for the drug.

"There certainly are patients who benefit tremendously," said Boyce's oncologist, Dr. Melody Cobleigh of Rush University Medical Center. "We'll just be battling with the insurance companies."

"For those not fortunate enough to be on Medicare or an insurance plan that covers it, it's a death sentence," Christi Turnage of Madison, Miss., said of the FDA's decision. Her breast cancer had moved into her lungs before she began Avastin three years ago and the spreading stopped, but Turnage said her insurer is ending coverage and she will seek financial help from Genentech's access program.

Hamburg said that she considered those arguments but that scientifically there are no clues yet to identify who those rare Avastin responders would be—

putting a lot of people at risk in order for a few to get some as-yet-unknowable benefit. She urged Genentech to do that research, saying the FDA "absolutely" would reconsider if the company could find the right evidence.

Genentech, part of Swiss drug-maker Roche Group, pledged to

begin that research.

"We are disappointed with the outcome," said company chief medical officer Dr. Hal Barron. "We remain committed to the many women with this incurable disease and will continue to provide help through our patient support programs to those who may be facing obstacles to

receiving their treatment in the United States."

The breast cancer organization Susan G. Komen for the Cure said that it respected the FDA's decision and that it was time for researchers to concentrate on finding so-called biomarkers that would tell which drug is right for which patient.

"Each type of cancer is very different from another in important ways, and in the end it's no surprise that Avastin's effectiveness may not be equivalent against all types of cancer," said Dr. Neal Meropol of University Hospitals Case Medical Center in Cleveland, who has long used Avastin for colon cancer.



This undated photo provided Jan. 31, 2011, by California-based Genentech Inc., shows the blockbuster cancer drug Avastin.

### Personal Trainer

## Surviving the holidays

*Some ways to reduce the stress of the holidays and keep up a healthy, physically active lifestyle:*

- 1 Take time for yourself every day instead of spending too much time with friends and family
- 2 Don't set unrealistic exercise goals; 30 minutes a day will keep you active even if you are used to spending an hour
- 3 Don't try to lose weight or keep up a restrictive diet; it's better to enjoy your favorite holiday foods in small portions
- 4 Ask a friend or family member to exercise with you
- 5 Create new, active traditions; instead of throwing a cocktail party, go snowshoeing or ice skating
- 6 Drink plenty of water; travel, alcohol and heated indoor air are dehydrating
- 7 Pause during meals; for example, eat dinner early and take a walk before dessert
- 8 Use alcohol and caffeine moderately; try a new herbal tea instead



- 9 Avoid placing unrealistic, perfectionist demands on yourself
- 10 Take time to laugh



Source:  
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Council on  
Exercise  
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Graphic:  
Paul Trap



# Life & Style

**'SWAN LAKE AND CONCERT OF THE INTERNATIONAL BALLET STARS'**

## Hundreds treated to 'finest performance to date'

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts delivered anew a wonderful holiday treat to hundreds of community members with its staging of one of the greatest classical ballets of all time, *Swan Lake*.

Opening the production was the presentation of the main characters, led by Russia's Natalia Kolosova and Daniil Kurynov of the Saratov State Ballet Theater as Princess Odette/Odille and Prince Siegfried, respectively; local talent Guo "Mike" Hao as the evil ge-

nius Von Rothbart; and the role of the Queen played by Helen Ann Bucher.

The academy's interpretation of *Swan Lake* was enhanced with performances from its 45 young and enthusiastic students.

With better synchronicity and supreme choreography, audiences of the two-night ballet show agreed that this year's production from the island's premier dance school is billed as the finest to date.

"We do feel like it's our best performance so far because we have the best team," said Anna Glushko, the creative force behind the academy's annual Christmas production, after Saturday's show. "We finally got it perfected but it's never easy. It gets harder every year because we always raise the bar high and we want to make it better each time for our audience."

Glushko noted that the great reviews for this year's show will only encourage them to surpass them in next year's production. "Every year, we're going to try to beat this record."

Dr. Gene Eagle-Oden, academy president, said the \$40,000 production was painstakingly designed and arranged by Glushko herself—from needlework for the vibrant costumes to music editing—for about two months. The dance routine itself took a year of training and rehearsal to make it flawless, he added.

"Anna had to do it herself and we're relying on her unique talent. She is the only person on



CLARISSA V. DAVID  
Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts president Dr. Gene Eagle-Oden and creative director Anna Glushko are flanked by international ballet dancers from Saratov State Ballet Theater in Russia and Universal Ballet Academy in Korea after concluding Saturday's show.



CLARISSA V. DAVID  
Universal Ballet Academy's Su Ji Ki performs a Variation from the ballet "Paquita."



CLARISSA V. DAVID  
A young ballerina stands in the midst of other ballerinas donning colorful costumes.

man" and "Paquita."

Both Glushko and Eagle-Oden thanked all those who made this year's show a success, including the platinum, gold, silver, and bronze level sponsors and donors; local artist Joe Weaver who made the stunning stage backdrop; DAVE Electronic Center for the stage lighting and sound; emcee David Bucher; the guest international dancers and students.



CLARISSA V. DAVID  
Natalia Kolosova, who played Princess Odette, is seen with the young swans.

island who can have 45 students perform with professional ballet dancers. Saipan is very lucky to have Anna," Eagle-Oden told *Saipan Tribune*.

Their annual productions only break even, making them a "real labor of love," Eagle-Oden revealed. "It's Anna's passion for dancing and her love for her students that brings her to put this show together year after year."

The excerpts of *Swan Lake*

was followed by the *Concert of the International Ballet Stars*. Kolosova and Kurynov performed Adagio from the ballets "Legend of Love," "Romeo and Juliet," and "Coppelia."

Universal Ballet Academy in Seoul, South Korea was represented by Joo Won Ahn, who performed Variation from "Tchaikovsky's Classical Pas-de-deux" and "Paquita," and Su Ji Ki who performed Variation from the ballet "Talis-



CLARISSA V. DAVID  
Some of the 45 young students at Glushko's Academy present their part of the show.



Black and white swans strike a pose.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



CLARISSA V. DAVID  
Academy students Cerinn Hwang and Sakura Imaya are the two students who have been under Anna Glushko's tutelage the longest.



CLARISSA V. DAVID  
Two ballerinas perform the Hungarian Dance.



# Brainnnsssss! Zombies storm Havana cinema festival

**HAVANA** (AP)—The hottest ticket in Havana is a gory, campy zombie flick with a wicked sense of humor about Cuba's obsessive relations with the United States, one that revels in islanders' knack for making the best of things even when everything around you - buildings, streets, human limbs—is falling to pieces.

Audiences thronged movie houses this week to catch screenings of "Juan of the Dead," or "Juan de los Muertos" in the original Spanish, and organizers had to hastily add extra midnight screenings to ac-

commodate the crush.

The Charles Chaplin Cinema bustled with several hundred eager spectators who stormed the doors once they opened Thursday night. And that was just those with special connections: journalists, family and friends of people involved in the movie, workers linked to Cuba's film institute. Hundreds more lined up around the block outside.

"Zombies in Havana, don't you want to see that?" writer-director Alejandro Bragues said after the screening as he fielded calls on his cell phone and congratulatory hugs from friends

and family.

Bragues said he was "euphoric" to see the crowds in the streets and credited it to the movie's first-of-its kind nature for Cuba, whose films tend to be low-budget affairs about ordinary life.

"We don't do much action cinema," he said. "That's something that should change. We should start doing it."

Trailers for the movie have circulated in the year since it was filmed, creating a buzz on the streets even before the lights went down.

Yasumari Alvarez, a Cuban

## Cuban officials' bar in Washington toasts 'Papa'

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Washington and Cuba have had an icy relationship for decades, but the Cold War foes now have a place to share something else: chilly drinks.

Last month, Cuban officials inaugurated an invitation-only bar at the mansion in northwest Washington where they have their offices. The bar is named after Ernest Hemingway, the iconic American writer who had an affinity for Cuba.

Born in 1899 in Illinois, Hemingway traveled widely and lived in Canada, Paris and Florida's Key West before buying a home in Cuba with the profits from his novel, "For Whom the Bell Tolls." He spent some two decades living at his home Finca Vigia—now a museum—and wrote "The Old Man and The Sea" there.

"People will frequently say to me 'Gosh, I had no idea Hemingway lived in Cuba,'" said Mary-Jo Adams, the executive director of The Finca Vigia Foundation, a Boston-based organization that is trying to help preserve Hemingway's home in Cuba and its contents.

But Hemingway didn't spend all his time in Cuba writing. He was a regular at the Floridita, a Havana bar where his favorite drink was the Papa Doble, a sugarless daiquiri

with rum, maraschino liqueur, lime and grapefruit juice.

Washington tourists shouldn't expect to drop in and order a Papa Doble at the new watering hole. The bar is on the second floor of the Cuban Interests Section, the Latin American country's quarters in Washington, and getting in requires connections.

The United States and Cuba haven't had diplomatic relations since 1961, so the building about a mile and a half north (2.4 kilometers) of the White House isn't a traditional embassy. But the bar there, like the many monuments to Hemingway across the island, illustrates Cuba's ongoing fascination with the writer.

Those with invitations go through a metal fence at the street and up a grand staircase. Black-and-white photos of Hemingway line the walls. Ceiling fans twirl overhead as they did in Hemingway's day at the Floridita. A 6-foot, bronze reproduction of Hemingway's signature hangs above the bar. The writer died in Idaho in 1961.

So far, the bar has been open just three times since its inauguration in November, when 150 guests celebrated by drinking Havana Club rum and smoking premium Cohiba cigars.

"I don't know where the cigars came from," joked Terry McAuliffe, the former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, who visited Cuba on a trade mission in April 2010 and attended the party.

Cigars and most other goods from Cuba cannot be brought into the U.S. under the long-time trade restrictions. In 2009, the Obama administration made it easier for Cuban-Americans to visit the island and send money to relatives. But ties have frayed anew recently over the 2009 jailing in Havana of U.S. government sub-contractor Alan Gross.

Chris Simmons, a retired Defense Department intelligence officer specializing in Cuban spy operations, said the bar was likely a thinly veiled attempt to introduce Cuba's intelligence-gathering unit to a new generation of government officials and media.

"Why open up a bar? So you can entertain the media and government and maybe recruit someone. It's a lot less of a drain on your resources to have potential spies come to you," Simmons said.

The head of Cuba's Washington operations, Jorge Bolasanos, said only that the bar's opening was "not political at all."



AP

The Cuban Interests Section in Washington, Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011.



AP

In this Dec. 5, 2010 file photo, an actress dressed as a zombie bride looks on during the filming of the movie 'Juan de los Muertos, or, 'Juan of the Dead' in Havana, Cuba.

film institute employee who was not involved in the production, said she was drawn by the novelty of a homegrown production, albeit with Spanish financing, that uses computer-generated effects to transform the Cuban capital.

It's no spoiler to reveal that even in a city where many buildings are already crumbling, a zombie apocalypse does not change the skyline for the better.

"It's the first Cuban film with special effects. All Havana is destroyed, with zombies in the streets," said Alvarez.

While outright political dissent is not tolerated by Cuba's Communist-run government, artists and intellectuals have always enjoyed a measure of freedom, especially when the barbs come wrapped in humor. Juan of the Dead's edginess is on display from the beginning shot, which shows a sun-drenched Juan reclining on a fishing raft off Havana's famous seafront promenade, known as the Malecon.

His sidekick, Lazaro, asks

Juan if he's ever thought of attempting the dangerous crossing to Miami. No, Juan replies, because then I'd have to work.

Suddenly the movie springs into action as a decaying zombie bursts through the surf, only to be felled by Lazaro with a harpoon through the eye.

"This stays between us," the two friends agree.

As attacks by the flesh-eating undead mount, the government keeps insisting on nightly newscasts that they are not reanimated corpses but dissident agitators in league with the "empire," an official label for the United States. Desperate people paddle off from the Malecon on rickety watercraft in a clear reference to Cuban raft crises.

When Juan, a rail-thin Don Quixote-like figure, and Lazaro, a stouter Sancho Panza type, gather neighbors on their rooftop to teach self-defense techniques, Juan tells them this is nothing they don't already know how to deal with.

Only "this time the enemy is not the Yankees, but a real

enemy and they're among us," Juan says.

Together they form a zombie wrecking crew with a business plan, charging Havana residents to "dispose of your loved ones." Sometimes, in confused melees, the clients fare no better than the zombies.

Yet until a news anchor disappears in a spray of blood on a live broadcast, authorities continue to insist that it's all a Yankee plot and everything is under control.

By then there are no clients left and it's clear there's nothing to do but flee. Juan, together with his half-Spanish daughter, Lazaro and Lazaro's son California, formulate a wild plan to escape the city that is an homage to Cubans' famous capacity to invent a makeshift solution to any problem.

Bragues insisted that his movie is not political, despite the jabs that deflate the official-speak common in the state-run media.

"Politics is bigger than me, it's way over my head," he said.



# Haiti president to host Oprah Winfrey during visit

**PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad** (AP)—Haitian President Michel Martelly said Friday he will host Oprah Winfrey when she visits the Caribbean nation.

In an interview with The Associated Press, the Haiti leader said he would like to see Winfrey promote the troubled nation's lesser known attributes to outside investors as it struggles to recover from the 2010 earthquake that threw hundreds of thousands people into makeshift camps.

Martelly said he planned to meet with Winfrey on Monday.

"I am hoping she will serve as an ambassador for Haiti, to help us get the kind of assistance needed," Martelly said at a trade summit for Caribbean leaders.

Winfrey is expected to arrive in Haiti on Sunday evening and on Monday visit a settlement camp for displaced people run by Hollywood actor Sean Penn and his aid group J/P HRO. She is also expected to meet with fashion designer Donna Karan, who has celebrated the work of Haiti's artisans through her Urban Zen Foundation since the quake.

Chance Patterson, a spokesman for Winfrey's Harpo Studios, couldn't be reached for comment Friday night.

The interview with Martelly came on the second day of the Caricom-Cuba summit, an effort aimed at encouraging cooperation among Caribbean nations and advocating for their interests.

Martelly, a former musician who performed under the stage name "Sweet Micky," also said he plans an ambitious world tour in an effort to raise money for an education program that seeks to ensure children attend



school in Haiti. Few parents can afford tuition for his country's many private schools.

"We would take the tour to Los Angeles, Korea, Japan, France to raise money for the children's education," Martelly said, adding that he understands the power of the stage.

"I will get on it and dance and have great groups of entertainers to perform to help Haiti, including Wyclef (Jean) and Oprah and have others play my music and sing my songs," he said.

Separately, Martelly said he is moving ahead with a campaign

pledge to restore Haiti's army despite opposition raised by some people, including Nobel peace laureate and former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias.

Arias sent a letter this week to Martelly saying it would be an error to bring back the military that was disbanded in 1995 because of a long history of abuse. Arias and others have said money for the \$25 million force would be better spent elsewhere for the struggling country.

In the interview, Martelly reiterated his position that the new force would be a modern one and a departure from its predecessor, which was an instrument long used to topple presidents and jail opponents in Haiti.

"I could bring arguments which could prove him wrong," Martelly said about Arias. "For instance, in a modern army we would have engineers and a medical corps who, if they were there in the time of the earthquake, could have saved lives."

Martelly said he hopes the new force will provide jobs and education to the youth of Haiti, where only about 60 percent of the people have regular employment.

## Eddie Murphy may play DC's Marion Barry in film

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Eddie Murphy may soon star in a more serious role, playing former Washington Mayor Marion Barry in a new HBO film project.

Washington journalists Tom Sherwood and Harry Jaffe have optioned the rights for their 1994 book "Dream City: Race, Power and the Decline of Washington, D.C." Sherwood said Friday that they have a separate contract with HBO to con-

sult on a project if their book is adapted. Sherwood is a reporter for NBC's Washington affiliate and previously worked for The Washington Post. Jaffe is an editor and writer for Washingtonian magazine.

An HBO spokeswoman said Friday that the network is working with Spike Lee and Murphy on the project, though she said it's in the early stages of development. Lee would direct the

project, and Murphy would play Barry. Lee did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Nearly 10 years ago, HBO also bought the rights to "Dream City" for a different project, but it was never produced.

In 1990, during Barry's third term as mayor, he was videotaped smoking crack cocaine in a hotel room during an FBI sting operation, an episode that drew worldwide attention. He even-

tually served six months in federal prison on a misdemeanor drug possession conviction and was elected again to the D.C. Council in 1992. Barry won a fourth term as mayor in 1994. He returned to the Council in 2004 and continues to represent one of the city's poorest wards.

Barry has declined to talk publicly about the HBO project. A spokesman for Barry said he had no comment on it.

## Pageant contestant not guilty of girlfriend murder

**PASADENA, Calif.** (AP)—A former contestant on Fox-TV's "The Sexiest Bachelor in America" pageant has been acquitted in the killing of his girlfriend, a former adult film actress.

After deliberating for two days, a Southern California jury found 47-year-old Brian Randone not guilty of the murder and torture of 31-year-old Felicia Lee, who was found dead Sept. 11, 2009, in their apartment in Monrovia near Pasadena.

Prosecutors argued that Randone had severely beaten and suffocated Lee, while his de-

fense attorneys insisted she died of a drug overdose.

Lee appeared in several adult films under the name Fe-

licia Tang, and had bit roles in the mainstream movies "Rush Hour 2" and "The Fast and the Furious."

## NY Occupy protest shuts down 'Law & Order'

**NEW YORK** (AP)—A protest by about 100 Occupy Wall Street members in New York City shut down production of an episode of "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit."

The Daily News reported Friday that the protesters arrived around midnight at Foley Square in Lower Manhattan.

The show was making an episode with an Occupy theme.

About 100 police officers appeared as the protesters roamed around the park, inspecting tents and signs built by the production company.

A protester from Brooklyn Heights, Drew Hornbein, says the movement is "not part of

corporate TV America."

The newspaper says a police officer with a bullhorn announced that the city had rescinded the film permit, which drew cheers.

Arrests were threatened, but the crowd dispersed and the set was dismantled.

NBC declined to comment.

## 'Skyrim' wins top prize at Spike Video Game Awards

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—"The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim" flew away with the game of the year trophy at the Spike Video Game Awards.

The dragon-slaying epic also won as best role-playing game, and "Skyrim" developer Bethesda Softworks was selected as the studio of the year at Saturday's ninth annual Spike Video Game Awards, which honors outstanding achievements within the gaming industry over the past year.

"We poured ourselves into this for the past three years," said "Skyrim" game director Todd Howard.

Valve's sci-fi puzzler "Portal 2" bounced away with the most awards, winning five trophies for best PC game, multiplayer and downloadable content, as well as best performance by female human for Ellen McLain as GLaDOS and male human for Stephen Merchant as Wheatley.

Other titles winning multiple trophies included Rocksteady's superhero sequel "Batman: Arkham City" for best character for the Joker and best action-adventure, adapted and Xbox 360 game; Supergiant Games' role-playing fable "Bastion" as best downloadable game, song and original score; and the latest entry in Nintendo's "Zelda" franchise, "The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword," which was chosen as the best motion and Wii game.

The fantastical 25-year-old "Zelda" role-playing series itself became the first gaming franchise to be inducted into the show's hall of fame. "Zelda" creator Shigeru Miyamoto from Japan was on hand to accept the honor.

"None of this would be possible without you," Miyamoto told the crowd. "We all at Nintendo are humbled by

your support."

"Chuck" star and avid gamer Zachary Levi hosted the ninth annual ceremony at Sony Pictures Studios in Culver City, appearing on stage on stage alongside three-dimensional "augmented reality" versions of characters and weapons from game of the year nominees.

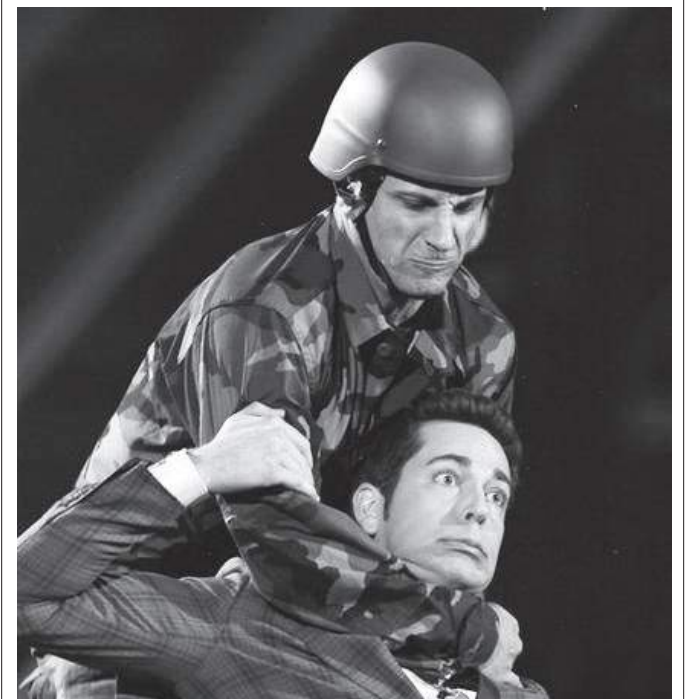
The two-hour extravaganza, which featured performances from The Black Keys and Deadmau5, put more emphasis on upcoming games than awards though.

The show featured never-before-seen footage from such titles as "Metal Gear Rising: Revengeance," "Tom Clancy's Rainbow 6 Patriots" and "BioShock Infinite." It also served as the launch pad for newly announced games like "The Last of Us," "Fortnite" and "Alan Wake's American Nightmare."

Other winners included "Mortal Kombat" as best fighting game, "Uncharted 3: Drake's Deception" as best graphics, "World of Warcraft" developer Blizzard as gamer god and "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3" as best shooter.

"This is awesome, especially in a year like this when we have so many good games coming out, especially multiplayer games like 'Gears of War,' which is amazing," said Robert Bowling, creative strategist at "Modern Warfare 3" co-developer Infinity Ward.

The winners of most of the show's categories were chosen by an advisory council, while the best trailer and most anticipated game winners were selected by viewer votes. The stealthy historical title "Assassin's Creed: Revelations" was awarded the best trailer trophy, and sci-fi saga "Mass Effect 3" won for most anticipated game.



U.S. soldier Daniel Aldema, background, and host Zachary Levi are seen onstage at Spike TV's Video Game Awards on Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011, in Culver City, Calif.



# Gaga gives a naughty and nice concert in NYC



Singers Kelly Clarkson, left, and Demi Lovato perform together at Z100's Jingle Ball concert at Madison Square Garden on Friday, Dec. 9, 2011 in New York.

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Lady Gaga was in the Christmas spirit at Z100's annual Jingle Ball concert, but her version of "White Christmas" would have made Bing Crosby blush.

Gaga performed a slightly naughty rendition of the holiday classic Friday night as part of her mini-concert at the radio station's event at Madison Square Garden. Gaga—sporting tight studded leather pants, matching top and a bare midriff—gyrated on a set that included antlers, Christmas trees and holiday lights as she performed "White Christmas."

"So I recently added a couple

of lyrics to this song because I think it's too short. It's like when you really start to enjoy it it stops. It's like a really bad orgasm. Merry Christmas New York!" she shouted. Later, she made a suggestive pose as she gave a come hither coo to Santa.

But her performance wasn't all saucy. She was nostalgic and appreciative as she thanked the radio station for allowing her to be the headliner of this year's show, which included performances from Kelly Clarkson, Demi Lovato, LMFAO, Pitbull, David Guetta, Foster the People, Hot Chelle Rae and more.

Gaga said her first concert as a young girl growing up in New York City was the Z100 Jingle Ball.

"I worked so hard and when I was 11 ... my mom got me tickets to Jingle Bell Ball," she said.

Gaga opened the Jingle Ball concert three years ago, she said: "I'll never forget there were a whole lot of superstars and no one knew who the hell I was. ... Some people thought I was going to be a one-hit wonder."

The singer, recently nominated for three Grammys, proved to be otherwise, and sang a few of her best-known songs,

including "Telephone," "Just Dance" and "Edge of Glory."

She opened her performance by singing between several Christmas trees; later, she performed on a keytar shaped like a Christmas tree, and she ended the night dressed in a hospital gown, re-enacting the theme of her latest video, "Marry the Night."

A portion of the evening's proceeds will go to "STOMP Out Bullying," a program designed to reduce and prevent bullying, a cause close to Gaga's heart. Earlier this week, she went to the White House to meet with officials about the matter.

"It's important to keep everybody safe in school," Gaga told the audience before launching into her inspirational anthem "Born This Way."

She also told her fans that she was happy to be in New York City during the holidays.

"This city gave birth to me and I will always come home," she said.

The concert will air Dec. 18 on the Fuse network.

## Jodie Foster's estranged dad sentenced in scam

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—A judge has sentenced Jodie Foster's estranged father to five years in a Los Angeles jail for bilking more than \$100,000 from poor and elderly people in a home-building scheme.

City attorney spokesman Frank Mateljan (mah-TEHL'-jin) says Lucius Foster was sentenced Friday, two days after he was convicted of 21 misdemeanor counts of grand theft. The 89-year-old has been jailed since Wednesday.

He was convicted of taking \$5,000 each from people for whom he promised to build affordable homes made from cargo containers. The units were never built, and prosecutors said he blatantly lied to clients.

Lucius Foster told City News Service that he remains estranged from his daughter, a two-time Oscar winner. He is due back in court Feb. 23 for a restitution hearing.

## Judge orders man to stay away from Kirsten Dunst

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—A judge on Friday granted Kirsten Dunst a temporary restraining order against a French man who has repeatedly written to the actress and traveled to Los Angeles at least five times to try to meet her.

Superior Court Judge Carol Boas Goodson ordered Jean Christophe Prudhon of Dijon, France, to stay 100 yards away from the "Spider-Man" star and to stop trying to contact her.

In letters accompanying Dunst's petition, Prudhon wrote that he sold his home in France so he could continue to travel to meet Dunst, who has not responded to any of his more than 50 letters. He wrote that he is in love with the actress and that he has repeatedly waited outside Dunst's home to try to meet her and has been mistaken for a paparazzo.



In this Dec. 7, 2011 file photo, actress Kirsten Dunst poses at The Hollywood Reporter's 20th annual Women in Entertainment Breakfast in Beverly Hills, Calif.

"I am frightened for my safety, as well as the safety of my family and friends who visit my home," Dunst wrote in a court filing. "I am worried that Mr. Prudhon will escalate his con-

duct further, putting myself and my family in danger."

Dunst's mother, Inez Dunst, wrote in a sworn declaration that she was alarmed by Prudhon's appearance when he came to her door last week trying to meet the actress. Inez Dunst said she knew who he was because he has repeatedly sent her daughter letters over the years.

It could not be immediately determined if Prudhon, 51, was represented by a lawyer, and attempts to locate him for comment were unsuccessful.

The actress, who recently appeared in the film "Melancholia," wrote in a court filing that her security personnel told Prudhon to stay away, but he has refused.

Goodson will consider whether to grant a three-year restraining order at a Dec. 21 hearing.

## An 'X Factor' judge chooses by refusing to choose

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Declaring herself unable to choose between two rival contestants, an "X Factor" judge cast her vote against Rachel Crow in an emotion-filled scene Thursday that led to the young singer collapsing onstage and the studio audience booing the judge.

On the Fox network talent competition, the vote was two against Marcus Canty, 20, and one for eliminating 13-year-old Rachel.

Then distraught judge Nicole Scherzinger said she couldn't

make the painful choice between them, explaining, "I love and adore both of you."

Instead, she opted to force the decision into viewers' hands by choosing Rachel and deadlocking the judges' votes, two against two. The bizarre scene triggered Rachel's exit, since she had the lower number of votes from viewers, and heated discussion on social

networks.

Hearing her fate, Rachel broke down as she was comforted by her mother, while, at the judges' panel, a stricken Scherzinger also seemed to come unglued.

While Rachel has been sent home, Canty will return to the live competition next week. Scherzinger had no immediate comment.

In this Dec. 8, 2011 photo released by Fox, host Steve Jones, right, consoles contestant Rachel Crow after she was eliminated on the singing competition series "The X Factor."



## Woman is ready to put an end to friendship past its prime

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a gay woman. My partner, "Jenny," and I have been friends with another couple for 15 years. Over the last year I have come to realize that I no longer want to be friends with them. One of them has been particularly unkind to me, and frankly, we don't have a lot in common.

Jenny is uncomfortable with my decision and wants me to talk to them to discuss my feelings. They have already asked her if there's a problem. If I talk to them, I'm sure they will be offended by what I have to say because I didn't say anything when the issues first arose. I'm not good at confrontation, and it's hard for me to tell someone my feelings are hurt.

The bottom line is, I want out of this couple's friendship. But I need to do it in a way that's OK with Jen. I met the couple through her, and she wants to continue her friendship with them. Please help.

MOVING ON IN GEORGIA

**DEAR MOVING ON:** It would not be confrontational to tell them that while you have known each other for a long time, you feel you have grown apart. You should also mention that your feelings were hurt when one of them said "( )." At least that way they will understand why you have disappeared, and Jenny won't be left with the responsibility of explaining it to them.

**DEAR ABBY:** My fiancé and I recently received a wedding invitation from a friend of his from high school. Our wedding is not far away, and I have an etiquette question.

Although it wasn't stated on the invitation where the bride and groom were registered, a Facebook message was sent after our invitation arrived in the mail. It said, "In lieu of gifts, people can donate monetarily to the couple"—by check or cash the day of the wedding, or via a Paypal account they have set up.

I'm confused. I grew up (and still live in) the South, and this doesn't seem like a traditional approach to gift-giving. Isn't it considered inappropriate to ask for money?

MYSTIFIED BRIDE IN ALABAMA

**DEAR MYSTIFIED:** Yes, it is. To solicit money the way that couple did is crude. An acceptable way to get the word out about the type of gifts couples prefer is by word of mouth. Guests usually ask if a couple is registered and where, and when the question is raised, it's all right to tell them. If you have created a wedding website, the information can be included on it; however, it shouldn't be so blatant that it appears gifts are uppermost in your mind.

When couples prefer a gift of money, the proper way the information should be conveyed is verbally by your family or friends, but not by you.

**DEAR ABBY:** I love the holiday season, but I often feel the blues and get a little depressed. I lost my father on Christmas Day several years ago and have since lost a brother to cancer. I'm tired of feeling this way when this is the season to be merry. What can I do?

ANOTHER BLUE CHRISTMAS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

**DEAR BLUE:** I am sorry for your losses. Because of your father's death on Christmas Day, it may always bring some sense of loss. However, an effective way to distract yourself would be to spend time in the company of friends who understand your feelings. Another would be to volunteer at a senior center, shelter or food distribution program. Helping someone else through a difficult time is the surest cure for the blues. Please give it a try.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

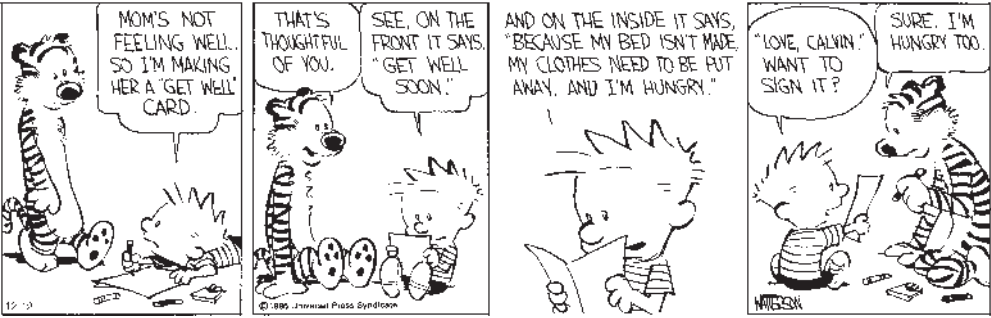
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# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

32 Wall painting  
34 Ram's mate  
5 Use a crowbar  
8 Resistance measures  
12 Chantilly, e.g.  
13 Individual  
14 Reach 212 degrees, perhaps  
15 Microwave, for one  
16 Willingness to wait  
18 No-goodnik  
20 Bit of progress  
21 Makes a mistake  
23 Neither partner  
24 New England football team  
28 Astronaut Armstrong  
31 "This tastes awful!"

**DOWN**

55 Fix  
56 Firmament  
57 Smell bad  
1 Jersey city  
39 Corn spike  
41 Purple shade  
42 Sculpture  
45 Pale brown monkey  
49 Spoke rapid-fire  
51 Conflagration  
52 Out of the storm  
53 — carte  
54 Rim

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

**Saturday's answer 12-12**

**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Mayim Bialik, 36; Madchen Amick, 41; Jennifer Connelly, 41; Tom Wilkinson, 63.

**Happy Birthday:** Uncertainty may abound, but you mustn't let it take over. Decisions must be made if you are going to venture down new paths. Open up to people you respect and the opinions and suggestions you receive will help you plan your course of action. Change is good and will help you reflect on what you left behind. Adventure is your calling. Your numbers are 4, 12, 17, 20, 28, 39, 41.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Being spontaneous can work both ways. If you combine your actions with pressure or demands, you will be pushed back. But if you are clever, witty and progressive, you will capture attention, favors and the help you require to move forward. ★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Put greater trust in the ones you love. Conversations will lead to decisions regarding your future. Bold action may be required on your part, but don't go overboard. An unusual partnership may require some posturing before it works well. ★★★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Playful, enlightening banter will get you further than arguing. Use your intelligence and imagination and you will come up with suggestions that will be accepted by the majority. Don't let an emotional connection with someone slow you down. ★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Take what's going on in your personal life to heart. Do whatever you can to sympa-

thize with someone you respect and love. Don't let uncertainty regarding responsibilities lead to complaints. Do what's expected of you and move along. ★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Think before you act. Anything short of the right move will be taken the wrong way and will work against you. Focus on personal change and what you can do to make your life and what you do more interesting. Uncertainty is prevalent. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You may want to help an outsider, but in the end it will cause a rift with someone counting on you at home. Gauge your time carefully and make sure you distribute personal, family and work time evenly. Love is highlighted. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Stick to what you do best. Entertain, but don't go over budget. Use your imagination and you will surpass expectations. Don't submit to emotional blackmail. Gather information and make a decision. A reversal can be expected. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** A change of heart will favor you. Someone's uncertainty will enable you to make a strategic move. A chance to modify how you do business will bring new opportunities. Socialize with people who share business interests. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Anger will not resolve anything. Do what's required physically to get the best results. Take care of your personal concerns and make alterations to the way you look or do things that will enable you to stand out. ★★

**EUGENIA LAST**

**THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY**

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Put your heart on the line and reveal your true feelings. Once you have made clear what you want, you will be able to move forward without feeling repressed or guilty. Honesty is the best route to happiness. ★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Don't give up on something you want. Bide your time and work hard at what's required of you and eventually you will be rewarded. An encounter with someone you feel strongly about can positively alter your personal life. ★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You'll be caught in the middle. No matter what you choose to do, there will be a price to pay. Make sure whatever you decide is worth the consequences. Love is in the stars, and romance should be allowed to flourish. ★★★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are astute, disciplined and understanding. You accomplish your goals.

*Eugenia's Web sites: [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations, [myspace.com/eugenialast](http://myspace.com/eugenialast) for Eugenia's blog, [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green**

Difficulty Level ★

12/12

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Saturday's SUDOKU Answer**

9	7	3	8	2	5	4	1	6
6	4	2	1	7	3	8	5	9
8	1	5	9	4	6	7	3	2
5	8	6	4	3	9	1	2	7
3	2	7	6	8	1	9	4	5
1	9	4	2	5	7	3	6	8
4	6	9	5	1	8	2	7	3
2	3	8	7	6	4	5	9	1
7	5	1	3	9	2	6	8	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

**WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET**

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**DOUBLE AGENTS** Solution: 10 letters

M S S E L L F K P R O T E C T  
E E H S A C C E G A M A D E S  
M S C E E I O A A L E K G L S  
B S V R K L D U D R L R N O E  
E E M E E G E E N T A C A M C  
R N D U E V Y V N T I W Y W C  
E I D T T O O E R T R M A A A  
S S S I L U G C A E I I D S L  
E U P P S N A M R T N F E A S  
R B M I A C R L C E L S Y S S  
V E R H O O L E E I D M I E E  
I A C E F N L O A A E N I M F  
C X L N A L A T S N K P U A N  
E F I U O C E G E E S E I J O  
T I E C E D H E E B O N D D C

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Access, Admit, Aware, Bond, Breach, Businesses, Cash, Collect, Confess, Countries, Damage, Deceit, Detail, Disclose, Employed, Enemy, Espionage, Exchange, Fear, Gadgets, Identify, Information, James, Leaked, Loyal, Member, Mole, Mutual, Nerveless, Protect, Reveal, Sell, Service, Sidekick, Spies, Target, Undercover, Value, Work

**Last Saturday's Answer: Retreat**

For more information, call 1-800-444-4444. For more information, call 1-800-444-4444. For more information, call 1-800-444-4444.



# CLASSIFIED ADS

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Looking for used cars. Year 2003 & up. 4 cyl., Good condition. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

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Church planters prayerfully seeking start up team volunteers for new contemporary Non-denominational Christian Church launching early 2012. For more info, call 989.2459. www.church360saipan.org

WHATZIT Solution: Double Dutch

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

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Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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w/ AC, Linens, Pots, Pans, etc.,  
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Robert Tenorio Torres  
Attorney at Law  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)  
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Saipan, MP 96950  
  
Tel: (670) 234-7859  
Fax: (670) 234-5749  
  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**  
  
**MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST,**  
Plaintiff,  
  
**vs.**  
  
**YVONNE A. ATALIG and  
GODEL OMENGEAR,**  
Defendants.  
  
**NOTICE OF AUCTION AND JUDICIAL SALE**  
  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 6th day of May, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 13th day of January, 2012 at 10 a.m., at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 347 R 90, located on Rota, containing an area 828 square meters, more or less, as particularly described on the Division of Lands and Survey's Official Cadastral Plat No. 347 R. 07, the original of which was recorded on December 9, 1993, as Document No. 93-4282 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan..

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.**  
1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:  
a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.  
b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and  
c) To reject any and all bids.  
2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.  
3. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to MPLT.  
4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and MPLT reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.  
5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.  
  
DATED this 29th day of November, 2011.  
  
/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

**HAFADAI BEACH HOTEL**  
P.O. BOX 500338 SAIPAN, MP 96950-0338 | TEL: (670) 234-6495 to 98 FAX: (670) 237-2529

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Open Date:** December 12, 2011      **Close Date:** December 23, 2011  
**Position:** (1) Accountant      **Salary:** \$5.05 per hour

**Job Qualification:** Bachelor Degree in Accountancy. / Two (2) Years Experience in Large Corporation.

For more information you may contact Mr. Juan I Tenorio, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-6495 ext. 5840/2. Employment application forms are available at Hafadai Beach Hotel, Human Resources Department.

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**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Open Date:** December 8, 2011      **Close Date:** December 19, 2011  
**Position:** (1) Waitress/Waiter      **Salary:** \$5.05 per hour


**Job Qualification:** High School Graduated / Two Years Experience / Preferred Chinese Speaking

For more information you may contact Mr. Juan I Tenorio, Manager for Human Resources Department at (670) 234-6495 ext. 5840/2. Employment application forms are available at Hafadai Beach Hotel, Human Resource Department.

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## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Please be informed that Angelina “Tin” Podiquit former COP Accounts Payable Accountant is no longer an employee of Suwaso Corporation dba Coral Ocean Point Resort Club (COP) after November 22, 2011, and is therefore no longer authorized to act, in any form whatsoever, on COP’s behalf. If you have any question or concern, please call 234-7000 or 237-7000.

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• 3-Liner with picture	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$42</b>
• 5-Liner with picture	<b>\$36</b>	<b>\$57</b>

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

#### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:  
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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#### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

# WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

## Netherlands Netherlands

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# Dwight Howard formally requests trade



**ORLANDO, Fla.** (AP)—When Magic star Dwight Howard signed a contract extension in 2007, he joked that he and Mickey Mouse would be in Orlando forever.

Now Howard wants out, putting one of the NBA's most dominant big men on the block at the start of training camp.

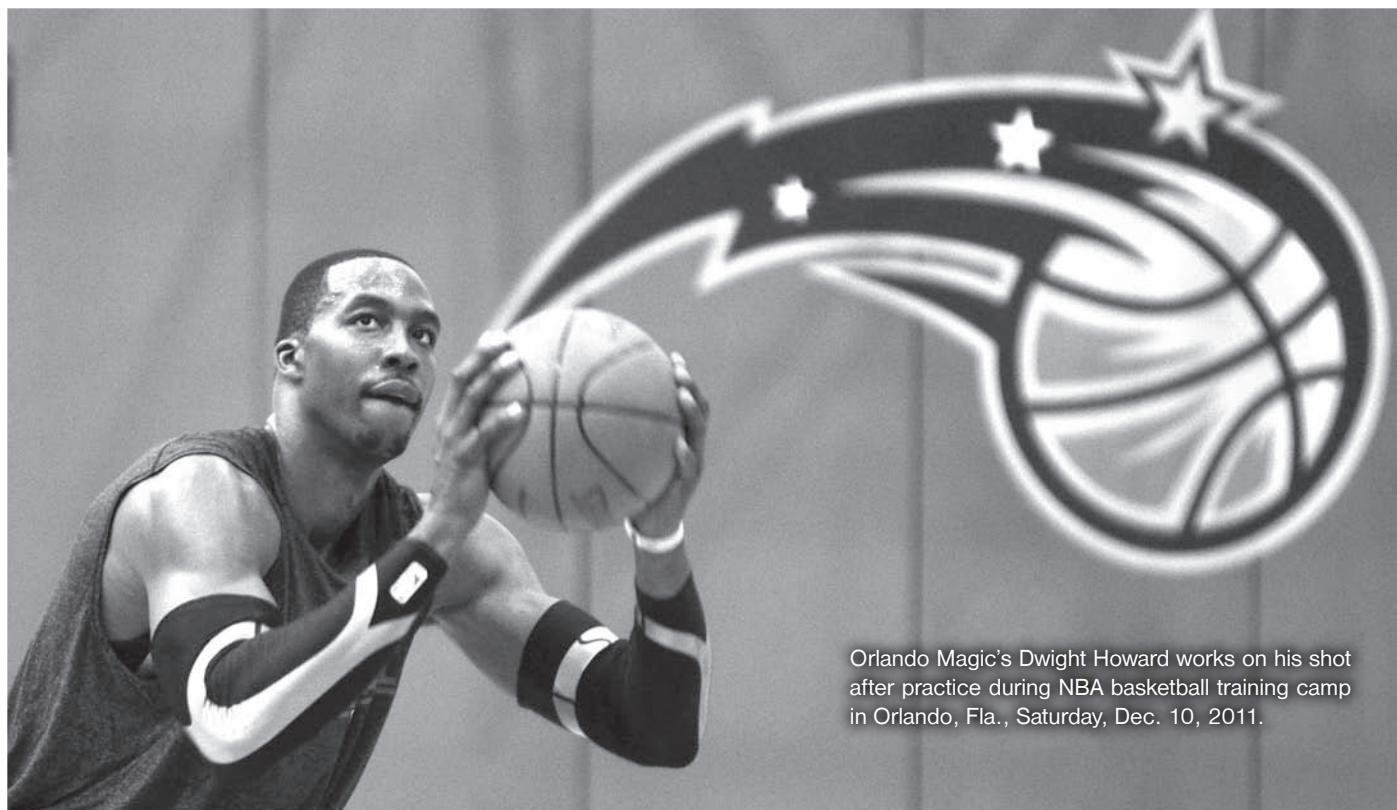
Howard acknowledged for the first time Saturday that he has formally requested a trade. It came a day after the team granted New Jersey, Dallas and the Los Angeles Lakers permission to talk to Howard's agent, Dan Fegan, about possible deals.

The All-Star center is eligible to opt out of his current contract in July 2012.

Wearing a retro Magic hat, Howard spent a stoic half-hour explaining his reasoning and expressed empathy for a fan base that had to watch Shaquille O'Neal depart for the Lakers in 1996. Howard likened his trade request to a divorce that only one party wants.

"I've done everything for this city. I don't think people understand the magnitude of love I have just for this city," he said. "It's beyond basketball. I think people, anybody should understand that. For me this has just not been a city I enjoy playing basketball in. I love everybody here, that's why it's been so tough."

He said the decision went deeper than what happened on the court, but also said recent playoff disappointments played a role. He alluded to the hurt he felt as he watched the Lakers celebrate their 2009 NBA



Orlando Magic's Dwight Howard works on his shot after practice during NBA basketball training camp in Orlando, Fla., Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011.

championship on the Magic's home floor.

"I've been back and forth," he said. "Mainly because the people here really care for the city. Nobody's gonna understand that. And if you hate me because of a jersey, then you never really loved me. That's how I feel."

Magic general manager Otis Smith said he would still like to see Howard eventually decide to stay in Orlando, but in the meantime they would explore options that were in the best interests of the Magic.

"When you invest seven years in a player and that's what he decides, then you have to deal with that from that angle. But it's not the end of the world," Smith said. "Like I said before, the Orlando Magic franchise is what it's about. We like to make

this into an individual game, but the fact of the matter is it's a team sport. And we'll continue to move forward."

Smith said there is no timetable or deadline for a trade. Likewise, he said he hasn't allowed himself to get caught up on how the team might adjust if Howard does depart.

"Anytime you lose the best player on your team you have to adjust to that," Smith said.

Talk of Howard's possible departure from Orlando exploded Friday after the center denied an ESPN report that he met with Nets owner Mikhail Prokhorov and general manager Billy King on Thursday in Miami without the Magic's permission. It followed reports that Howard planned to request a trade to the Nets.

Fegan said in a statement that any claims of tampering are false.

Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said the team is going about business as usual, despite the circus-like atmosphere that has surrounded the franchise over the past two days.

Van Gundy said Howard's approach and demeanor in practice were the same on Saturday.

"I think again, it's not an easy situation," Van Gundy said. "But just like I'm doing I'd like our other players to do - stay out of it. My issue is to go out and coach the guys that are here every day, which includes Dwight. And their issue is to come out

and focus and play basketball every day."

Howard said he thought about the situation all summer and spoke to Magic CEO Alex Martins again on Saturday about it. He declined to go into specifics on those discussions or what he said when he originally conveyed the news to Smith.

"The last couple of weeks before training camp were very tough," Howard said. "Just stressed out about it. Got sick, couldn't sleep. It was a very stressful time. After I said what I said to Otis, got it out - I started feeling better."

Howard maintains his decision was multifaceted and came

down to feeling he didn't have an ideal situation to pursue an NBA title.

Specifically, Howard said overall he didn't feel satisfied with the talent around him and he would like to be in the kind of personnel input he said Dallas star Dirk Nowitzki enjoys.

"If Dirk told (Dallas owner) Mark (Cuban) 'Hey, I think this is the direction our team is going, this is what we need in the locker room and these are the kind of players we need,' I think Mark would listen," Howard said. "That doesn't mean Mark has to say, OK, we'll make a rash decision. But I think he would listen and really found out what the player needs around him in order to win."

Smith said the team's free agency approach also hasn't changed since Howard's request.

He said the team is close to working out a deal to retain shooting guard Jason Richardson, who is eligible for free agency.

"Actually Jason and I are close to terms, with Dan (Fegan) we are close to terms," he said. "He's expected in camp if not tomorrow, then Monday."

The Magic are waiting on final paperwork before finalizing a trade that will send Brandon Bass to Boston in exchange for Glen Davis. They also are working on a separate deal to acquire guard Von Wafer, who spent time playing in Europe this summer.

Once that paperwork is complete, they too will begin practicing with the Magic. According to Davis' Twitter account, he is already in Florida.

## Knicks acquire Chandler, waive Billups

**GREENBURGH, N.Y.** (AP)—The anchor of the Dallas Mavericks' defense now centers one of the league's best frontcourts.

Tyson Chandler joined the New York Knicks on Saturday, in the belief that joining, Carmelo Anthony and Amare Stoudemire means he's not done competing for championships.

The Knicks have long needed a defensive presence, and Chandler plans to provide it.

"I know what my job is coming here," he said. "I know I came here to defend. I'm going to defend the rim, I'm going to rebound, I'm going to get extra shots. And I think if we play on both ends and play as a team, the sky is definitely the limit for this squad."

Chandler gets a four-year contract worth about \$56 million after coming to the Knicks via sign-and-trade as part of a three-team deal. The Knicks sent Ronny Turiaf and cash to the Washington Wizards and reserve guard Andy Rautins to the Mavericks, and there were other picks involved.

The Knicks also waived point guard Chauncey Billups and

designated him as their amnesty player so they could afford Chandler.

The 7-foot-1 Chandler helped the Mavericks win the NBA championship last season, averaging 10.1 points and 9.4 rebounds, and at first hoped he would return to Dallas. But the Mavericks wanted to keep other options open, and when the Knicks emerged as a surprising option, they quickly become Chandler's preferred one.

"The Knicks were never on my radar. I'd never seen them as being a possibility and once I got word that it could potentially happen, they became my No. 1 priority was to get here," Chandler said.

It took some work, notably using the amnesty clause to waive Billups so his \$14.2 million salary wouldn't count for salary cap or luxury tax purposes. Billups was their starting point guard last season after coming with Anthony in a trade from Denver and was expected to return, with the Knicks picking up his option for this season in April when they would have owed him just \$3.7 million had

they waived him within five days after the season ended.

"We didn't want to get rid of Chauncey and when I talked to him today I told him, 'Chauncey, it's not like we're waiving you because we don't want you. Look at it as what it is. We traded you basically for the starting center on the NBA championship team,'" interim general manager Glen Grunwald said.

Billups could be replaced by veteran Mike Bibby, who finished last season and will sign with the Knicks, a person with knowledge of the plans told The Associated Press.

Long undersized—Dwight Howard blocked more shots than they did as a team two seasons ago—the Knicks eagerly welcomed the 225-pound Chandler. His No. 6 jersey—guard Landry Fields switched to No. 2 so Chandler could have it—covered most of Madison Square Garden chairman James Dolan's body when he held it up for a photo.

Chandler later posed alongside Anthony and Stoudemire, two of league's elite scorers. Now the Knicks have a stopper, too.

## Gasol is hoping he'll get to stay with the Lakers

**EL SEGUNDO, Calif.** (AP)—Pau Gasol felt simultaneously hurt and hopeful Saturday as he left the Los Angeles Lakers' training complex for maybe the final time—or maybe just the final time until Sunday.

Although Gasol has no idea whether his first practice of training camp will be his last with the Lakers, he's still hoping something will happen to keep him with the club that seems determined to trade him.

"It's not been easy," Gasol said. "Mentally and emotionally, it's a hard situation to deal with because the situation is out of your control. Even knowing that, it's still hard."

The four-time All-Star is the centerpiece of the Lakers' pursuit of Chris Paul, New Orleans' superstar point guard. The NBA stunningly rejected a megatrade on Thursday that would have sent Gasol to Houston and Lamar Odom to the Hornets, yet the three teams went back into negotiations a day later in hopes of salvaging the deal—and sending Gasol and Odom away from their beloved club just when they thought they had a reprieve.

"If the NBA hadn't stopped it, I would be gone," Gasol said. "I wouldn't be here. It's tough to

keep your balance. At the same time, I'm happy it hasn't happened, because my heart is here, my mind is here. I want to be here. That's the reality. I heard it was back on the table again. Everything is possible again."

Odom didn't report to practice at the Lakers' training complex on Saturday, instead getting a physical elsewhere. Gasol showed up and worked out with his longtime teammates at what's turning into an awfully awkward training camp for new coach Mike Brown.

So why would a player with Gasol's accomplishments and pedigree stick by a team that apparently doesn't want him? Just in case the deal can't be completed, Gasol wants to learn about Brown's new tactics while forming a bond with teammates who might be his opponents this season.

"Because I love to. This is what I love to do," Gasol said. "I've been through so much here. We won two championships in 3 1/2 seasons. I was looking forward to winning another one, making another run. I love practicing with my teammates. It was hard for me to sit down with my quad, just watching and sitting. Today I wanted to try it, and I was able

to go and practice without too much soreness."

Gasol's honest love for the franchise must be painful for the Lakers, who uniformly praise him as a fine teammate and one of the NBA's best big men. Gasol's arrival in early 2008 catapulted the Lakers into three consecutive NBA finals with Gasol as Kobe Bryant's top lieutenant, and his fluent Spanish has endeared him to Latino fans across Los Angeles.

"I've always been a committed and respectful person, and I will continue to be," Gasol said. "From what I know, I'm here and paying attention to every detail. I had a lot of fun today being able to practice with my guys. Hopefully, I'll have a chance to do it again tomorrow. ... I guess I have to be patient. Whatever happens, hopefully it'll happen quick, so I can adjust to the idea, to either idea—whether it's staying here and preparing myself for a very challenging season full of goals and exciting things, or a change in scenario, the whole thing."

Gasol hasn't been able to talk to Odom, who showed up briefly at the Lakers' training complex on Friday for a meeting with general manager Mitch Kupchak, but left without practicing.



# RG3 wins first Heisman Trophy for Baylor



**N E W  
Y O R K**  
(AP)—Robert Griffin

III beat out preseason favorite Andrew Luck for the Heisman Trophy, dazzling voters with his ability to throw, run and lead Big 12 doormat Baylor into the national rankings.

The junior quarterback known as RG3 became the first Heisman winner from Baylor on Saturday night by a comfortable cushion over the Stanford star.

Griffin started the season on the fringe of the Heisman conversation, a talented and exciting player on a marginal team, while Luck was already being touted as a No. 1 NFL draft pick.

Draft day might very well still belong to Luck, but Griffin diverted the Heisman to Waco, Texas, to a school that has never had a player finish better than fourth in the voting—and that was 48 years ago.

Right before his name was called, Griffin took a deep breath. When it was announced he broke into a bright smile. Then it was hugs all around, for his coaches, his parents, his sister and his fiancée.

He took a few long strides up to the stage and let out a laugh when he got there, making a joke about the Superman socks—complete with capes on the back—he was wearing before going into his acceptance speech.

“This is unbelievably believable,” he said. “It’s unbelievable because in the moment we’re all amazed when great things happen. But it’s believable because great things don’t happen without hard work.”

Griffin received 405 first-place votes and 1,687 points.

“Everybody associated with Baylor has a reason to celebrate tonight,” he said.

Luck received 247 first-place votes and 1,407 points to become the fourth player to be Heisman runner-up in consecutive seasons and first since Arkansas running back Darren McFadden in 2006 and ’07.

He was also first to congratu-



In this photo provided by the Heisman Trophy Trust, Robert Griffin III, of Baylor University, holds the Heisman Trophy award after being named the winner, Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011, in New York.

late Griffin

“Very much well deserved,” Luck said.

Alabama running back Trent Richardson was third with 138 first-place votes and 978 points. Wisconsin running back Montee Ball (348 points) was fourth and the other finalist, LSU cornerback Tyrann Mathieu (327) was fifth.

Griffin’s highlights were simply spectacular—his signature moment coming on a long, cross-field touchdown pass with 8 seconds left to beat Oklahoma—and he put up dizzying numbers, completing 72 percent of his passes for 3,998 yards with 36 touchdown

passes and a nation-leading 192.3 efficiency rating.

More importantly, he lifted Baylor (9-3) to national prominence and one of the greatest seasons in school history. The 15th-ranked Bears won nine games for the first time in 25 years, beat the Sooners for the first time ever and went 4-0 in November.

That was after winning a total of four November games in their first 15 Big 12 seasons. And the last three games? Oklahoma, Texas Tech and Texas.

Luck was the front-runner from the moment in January he surprised many by returning to Stanford for one more season

instead of jumping to the NFL to become a millionaire. He didn’t disappoint, with 3,170 yards receiving, 35 touchdown passes, a completion percentage of 70 percent and a rating of 167.5.

Griffin put up better numbers and, essentially, out-Lucked Luck, who became a star by lifting a forlorn program at a private school out of the shadows of its powerful conference rivals.

Luck made a sensational one-handed catch early in what turned out to be a blowout victory against UCLA. Nice.

Griffin made a 15-yard reception in traffic to convert a key

third down on the game-winning drive in Baylor’s opening 50-48 victory against TCU. Better.

The 6-foot-2, 220 pounder with sprinter’s speed—he was an all-American in the 400-meter hurdles—grabbed plenty of headlines and attention with that first Friday performance against the Horned Frogs and ended the first month of the season with more touchdown passes than incompletions.

He was an early Heisman front-runner, but he faded in October as Baylor lost three of four. Griffin continued to pile up video game numbers, but not enough to compensate for the Bears’ leaky defense.

He finished with a kick and shot up the Heisman charts on Nov. 19, when Baylor beat Oklahoma 45-38. Griffin passed for 479 yards and four touchdowns against the Sooners, including that sensational 34-yard, game-winner to Terrance Williams in the closing seconds.

He stated his case one last time—emphatically—on championship Saturday, capping his season with 320 yards passing and two TD passes and two touchdown runs in a 48-24 victory against Texas. It was the second straight year Griffin led the Bears past those longtime bullies from Austin.

At that point it became obvious that quarterback Don Trull’s

fourth-place finish in 1963 would no longer be the Heisman standard at Baylor.

Landing Griffin, the son of two U.S. Army sergeants who settled in central Texas, was a recruiting coup for Baylor, though it was something of a package deal.

Griffin had committed to Houston and coach Art Briles, but when Baylor hired Briles away, Griffin switched up and followed the coach to a program that hadn’t even played in a bowl game since 1994.

He started 11 games as an 18-year-old freshman in 2008 and tore a knee ligament three games into the 2009 season.

He returned last year as good as new and with a newfound commitment and love of football. He threw for 3,501 yards and led Baylor to a 7-6 record and its first bowl appearance since 1994.

This season, his passing has improved and he’s still a dangerous runner (644 yards and nine DS). He has left little doubt that he’s a pro prospect, though he’s got one more game—the Alamo Bowl against Washington on Dec. 29 in San Antonio—to show his stuff.

An aspiring lawyer who is working on a master’s degree in communications, he holds 46 school records and adoring Bears fans are praying he comes back for more.

## Donald closes in on money title, history in Dubai tourney

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates** (AP)—Top-ranked Luke Donald is on the verge of becoming the first golfer to win the European and American money titles, shooting a 6-under 66 Saturday in the third round at the Dubai World Championship to trail leader Alvaro Quiros by four strokes.

While Donald climbed the leaderboard, Rory McIlroy headed the other way to all but end his chances of overtaking the Englishman for top spot on the European money list. The U.S. Open champion had a shaky 1-under 71 to drop into a tie for eighth.

“It’s over,” McIlroy said. “Luke is in a great position and he’s played great the past couple of days. I expect him to go out and shoot another very solid round tomorrow and wrap things up.”

Rory McIlroy needs to win the tournament and Donald needs to finish outside the top nine for any chance of overtaking him for the European money title. Donald, who wrapped up the American money title this year, is fourth.

The big-hitting Quiros shot a 70 to total 14-under 202 on the Earth Course at Jumeirah Golf Estates. He leads Paul Lawrie (66) by two strokes while 2010

British Open winner Louis Oosthuizen (66) is another shot back.

Several other high-profile players—including No. 4-ranked Martin Kaymer, Sergio Garcia and Paul Casey of England—also moved into contention. Kaymer tied the course record with a 64 for a share of eighth place with McIlroy, Garcia (68) and Casey (70).

Despite his strong finish, Donald said he isn’t about to start celebrating just yet.

“I would be foolish to think it’s over,” Donald said of the money title race. “Tomorrow it will be just like any other day in terms of focus. I will be trying to catch whomever is the leader and trying to win the tournament.”

Donald said the key to his rise from 26th spot after the first round was his short game. It helped him win the BMW PGA Championship, among four tournament victories this year. He defeated Lee Westwood in a playoff at Wentworth to take top spot.

Donald opened on Saturday with a birdie on a hole he had bogeyed the first two days, and then had three more birdies on the front nine. He slowed down on the back nine but birdied two of the last four holes.

## Sources: Braun has positive drug test, appealing



**NEW YORK**  
(AP)—National League

MVP Ryan Braun has tested positive for a banned substance and is appealing to avoid a 50-game suspension, according to people familiar with the case.

ESPN cited two sources Saturday in first reporting the result, saying the Milwaukee Brewers slugger tested positive for elevated levels of testosterone, adding that a later test by the World Anti-Doping Agency lab in Montreal determined the testosterone was synthetic.

A spokesman for Braun said in a statement issued to ESPN and The Associated Press that “there are highly unusual circumstances surrounding this

case which will support Ryan’s complete innocence.”

“There was absolutely no intentional violation of the program,” Matthew Hiltzik said in a statement sent by the four-time All-Star left fielder’s representatives.

“While Ryan has impeccable character and no previous history, unfortunately, because of the process we have to maintain confidentiality and are not able to discuss it any further, but we are confident that he will ultimately be exonerated,” he said.

Major League Baseball does not announce positive tests and penalties in drug cases involving initial positives until all arbitration is concluded.

The case is still being ap-

pealed to an arbitrator under MLB’s drug program, people familiar with the situation told the AP. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because the appeal is still ongoing and said Braun and others involved in the appeals process have known about the positive test since late October.

Appeals usually are heard by arbitrator Shyam Das. One of the people said the appeals process is not likely to be concluded until January at the earliest. That person also told the AP that after being informed of the positive test, Braun asked to have another urine test taken, and that the second test was within normal range.

If suspended, Braun wouldn’t

be eligible to play for the NL Central champions until May 31 at Dodger Stadium, barring any postponements. He would miss the first 57 days of the major league season, losing about \$1.87 million of his \$6 million salary.

The 28-year-old Braun, the 2007 NL Rookie of the Year, hit .312 with 33 homers and 111 RBIs last season and led Milwaukee to the NL championship series, where the Brewers lost to the eventual World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals.

Braun already was signed through 2015 when the Brewers gave him a new deal running through 2020 that added \$105 million and guaranteed him a total of \$145.5 million over a decade.





# Peterson takes junior welterweight title from Khan



**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Hometown favorite Lamont Peterson took a contentious split decision victory over Amir Khan on Saturday to seize the WBA and IBF junior welterweight belts, leaving the British fighter feeling cheated.

Peterson, helped by referee Joe Cooper deducting two points from Khan for pushing in the seventh and 12th rounds, scored the split-decision to win the WBA and IBF junior welterweight titles on Saturday night.

Judges George Hall and Valerie Dorsett scored the fight

113-112 in favor of Peterson. Nelson Vasquez had Khan winning 115-110.

“It must have been a good fight. They’re already talking about a rematch,” Peterson said.

Khan, who was favored to win in his sixth title defense, started out strongly, scoring the only knockdown in the fight late in the first round. In fact, Khan, who complained that Cooper was favoring Peterson, thought he had knocked Peterson down a second time. It was ruled a slip.

“It was like I was against him and the referee,” Khan said.

Peterson began his counter-

attack in the third round, taking the fight to Khan and hitting him with a series of blows to the head, buckling his knee.

The challenger secured the fight by winning the 10th and 11th rounds on Hill and Dorsett’s scorecards. The 12th was ruled even after the point was deducted from Khan.

“I was shocked. There was no warning,” Khan said about the 12th round point deduction.

“I’m a fighter — not a referee,” Peterson said when asked his opinion on Khan’s penalty. “It’s always going to be rough at this level,” Peterson said. “I’m always prepared for a backyard fight.”

In a bizarre post-fight press conference, fans of both fighters crowded the room, repeatedly cheered and had to be admonished by officials from the promoters.

Oscar De La Hoya, whose Golden Boy Promotions put on the fight, started campaigning for another bout even before both fighters spoke.

“There will be a rematch,” De La Hoya predicted.

Spurred on by a crowd just short of a sellout in the first championship fight held in Washington since 1993, Peterson improved to 30-1-1. Khan is 26-2.

“We all know who won the fight,” Khan said.

## WUSHIN

From Page 28

8th Division en route to the seven-point victory. Tabora tallies six in the fourth, while Guiab knocked in eight of his 16 in the final canto.

8th Division absorbed its fourth straight loss after winning its debut against FGC Builders. Leo Factor led 8th Division’s losing cause, firing 31 markers.

In the Wushin-Pacific Postal tussle, Tabora’s guns were blazing anew, as he drilled 10 of his team’s 18 markers in the opening period to take control of the game, 18-13.

Wushin never lost the lead from thereon, as Pacific Postal failed to contain Tabora and Pete Lizama and Edwin Santos also stepped in on offense for the winning team. Santos added 20 markers, while Lizama chipped in 18.

Pacific Postal had only six players at the start of the game, limiting its option on offense. One more player arrived in the second canto, but Pacific Postal failed to catch fire to remain winless in four games. Jessie Aque top-scored for Pacific Postal with 21, while Mico Usi contributed 20.

managed to get some distance in the second period, 45-38, behind the two triples and eight points of Sison.

In the second half, gunner Jun Estolas came to play for Konstrak, but did not produce enough baskets to shove his team in the lead, as Blue Haus retained the upper hand, 66-58. Sison added seven more points in the third frame, while Brandon Talania made six. Estolas scored four points in the third and still failed to find his rhythm in the payoff canto, leaving Elgene Mangali and Jawn Joyner the chore to lead Kontrak’s comeback bid. Mangali scored 11 in the fourth, while Joyner tallied eight, however their efforts were nullified by the timely baskets from Camacho, Abedes, and Sison.

## MP

From Page 28

Jimenez’s wards were undefeated this fall season, winning nine games, including the finale against Paire.

“This (championship) is a product of the team’s hard work. Every game, they keep pushing themselves, especially on defense. They would not let up, chasing the ball and the opposing team’s players. They also showed tremendous teamwork as seen in our passing plays today (last Saturday),” Jimenez said in a brief interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

MP United connected off their tough defense and good passing, as after stealing possession from Paire near mid-court, Park saw Abes sprinting to the right sideline and made the pass. Abes dribbled against only one defender, while Paire goalie Felix Kim committed a defensive gamble as instead of staying on his spot, the latter decided to move sideways, anticipating that former will continue to attack. However, Abes stopped and kicked the ball hard and the ball crossed,

rolling toward the left post. Abes jumped in celebration and was mobbed by his teammates at center court.

Paire made a lot of attempts to score and equalize, but MP United’s defense was always there to foil the repeated bid. John Auther broke away from his defenders twice in the first half, but after kicking the ball, MP United strikers managed to block it. Gideon Borja also had opportunities of scoring, but Villanueva was there to frustrate him.

Lee, MP United’s captain, received the perpetual trophy after

the championship game from Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan. Saturday’s title match was the first time NMIFA hosted the FA Cup for boys U12 and girls U15 teams. Youth league committee member Lydia Tan said they will now hold the FA Cup annually and it will take place every fall season.

MP United advanced to the finals of the FA Cup after thumping Matansa girls U15 in the semis, 3-1, while Paire won the other semis pairing over MP United girls U15, 3-0, last Monday.

first time and he wishes that Guam and the CNMI will continue their partnership in improving football in the region.

At the conclusion of the clinic, White, assisted by Guam Football Association technical director Cheri Stewart and NMIFA general secretary Ed Salas, handed out certificate of attendance to coaches.

“We, at GFA, are glad to share Mr. White’s expertise to CNMI coaches. We brought him in Guam to take our coaches’ skills to the next level and we wish the same thing to Saipan,” Stewart said.

## FOOTBALL

From Page 28

After the practical session, White and the coaches went to a classroom in Koblerville for the theoretical part of the clinic. Discussion at the classroom focused on the knowledge, attributes, skills, and experience of future and current coaches and those present at the clinic. White divided coaches/players in four groups and each was given time to share their thoughts about the topics on hand. Then at the end of the one-and-half hour session, participants agreed that communication and the coach’s knowledge about the game/sport are crucial in helping a player or team succeed.

“The discussion was very informative. Coach Gary was able to share ways to build a long-term player development program and showed us coaches how to react on certain situations during games and practices,” Paire U12 coach Patricia Coleman said.

“I am very impressed with the enthusiasm of the coaches. Their interest made my job very easy. I loved it when participants are very involved in discussions

instead of staying in the back-ground. They had intelligent questions,” said White, who entertained simple to difficult questions from the participants, such as how to correct repeated mistakes during games and practices and decide whether to coach your own sons/daughters or move them to another team.

“I hope coaches will come out of this clinic with renewed energy and enthusiasm. I hope they will continue their passion in coaching to help youth players in the CNMI,” White said.

White also thanked GFA for bringing him to Saipan for the

first time and he wishes that Guam and the CNMI will continue their partnership in improving football in the region.

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## FGC

From Page 28

the first half.

The Ol’Aces kept their foot on the gas and maintained the 10-point cushion at the end of the third quarter, 69-59. Pelisamen and Tony Diaz each nailed a trey and combined for 19 points in the third canto.

Pelisamen added 12 more points in the fourth quarter and finished with a game-high 34, while Pagarao and Kae Bernardo carried FGC, combining for 49.

FGC did not go home empty handed that night, as it got the best of Satbahi in the late night pairing.

FGC fell behind early, 12-19, as Satbahi’s defense allowed only Bernardo to score multiple baskets in the first period. FGC then recovered after the sluggish start and shot in front

at halftime, 45-28. Pagarao and Banjo Basila led the charge with 17 points, while Satbahi was limited to nine markers in second period.

FGC slowed its pace a little in the third quarter, but still maintained a solid 59-45 advantage, heading into crunch time. Errol Peredo drained a pair of three balls for 10 points in the fourth, but FGC held on. Bernardo finished with 22 points to lead all scorers, while Marlon De Dios and Peredo came out with 14 apiece for Satbahi.

In a make-up game, Satbahi picked up where it left off to beat Andhok’s.

Andhok’s held a 16-13 edge against Satbahi in their Dec. 2 game. Satbahi settled down in the second quarter and surged ahead at halftime, 33-26. Six different players cashed in for Satbahi during the rally and the group contained Andhok’s to

10 points in the second canto. Satbahi then pulled away in the third, 53-35, before rain caused the stoppage of play. Andhok’s needed the break after being stuffed again in the third with its nine markers.

The matched continued last Friday and Satbahi escaped with the win. Satbahi’s shooters struggled at the resumption of the game and were held to seven points, but they managed to weather the storm in the last 10 minutes.

Bernard Aquino and Perry Inos turned in 10 points apiece, while Andhok’s Dexter Tenorio led all scorers with 13.

**First Game**  
**Ol’Aces 90** – Pelisamen 34, T. Diaz 23, Camacho 12, Z. Diaz 7, Kenty 4, Olaitiman 4, Ayuyu 3, Rangamar 3.

**FGC 81** – Pagarao 25, Bernardo 24, Yabut 12, Babauta 8,

Lerio 7, Santos 4, Morales 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 21-16, 46-35, 69-59, 90-81.

**Second Game**  
**FGC 77** – Bernardo 22, Pagarao 17, Basila 9, Santos 7, Gamboa 7, Babauta 6, David 4, Lerio 3, Ritual 2.

**Blue Haus/Satbahi 65** – De Dios 14, Peredo 14, Mangali 10, Talania 10, Manalo 7, Guiab 6, Aquino 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 12-19, 45-28, 59-45, 77-65.

**Make-up Game**  
**Blue Haus/Satbahi 60** – Aquino 10, Inos 10, De Dios 9, Peredo 6, Fernandez 6, Talania 6, Mangali 5, Guiab 4, Jung 4.

**Andhok’s 58** – Tenorio 13, Lauron 11, Umali 10, Wesley 9, Artates 7, Park 3, Dayrit 2, Alipio 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 13-16, 33-26, 53-35, 60-58.

## Blue Haus 84, Konstrak 81

The first game last Saturday had a down-to-the-wire finish with Blue Haus edging Konstrak Gualo Rai.

Edwin Camacho and Marlon Sison combined for eight of Blue Haus’ last eight points to lift their team to a 3-1 card. Jun Abedes scored the other two points. Konstrak has the same record after absorbing its first loss.

The first match was pretty even at the end of the opening canto, 19-all, before Blue Haus

**FRIDAY**  
**Wushin Express 94** – Lizama 29, Tabora 26, Guiab 16, Tibayan 13, Patawaran 2, De Jesus 2, Farinas 2.

**8th Division 87** – Factor 31, Mateo 21, Detera 14, Jacob 6, Alejandro 6, Culala 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 29-21, 50-50, 71-70, 94-87.

**SATURDAY First Game**  
**Blue Haus 84** – E. Camacho 20, Talania 19, Sison 19, Abedes 16, Olivos 4, Cruz 2.

**Konstrak Gualo Rai 81** – Mangali 30, Joyner 18, Mallari 16, Estolas 6, Reyes 6. Navarro 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 19-19, 45-38, 66-58, 84-81.

**Second Game**  
**Wushin Express 83** – Tabora 29, Santos 20, Lizama 18, Tibayan 7, Villasan 4, Farinas 2.

**Pacific Postal Plus 71** – Aque 21, M. Usi 20, Johnson 6, Agbanlog 6, Claveria 6, Anicete 5, Acosta 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 18-13, 43-36, 61-56, 83-71.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

DUBAI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—

Scores Saturday from the Dubai World Championship, a \$7.5 million European Tour event at the par-72, 7,675-yard Earth course at Jumeirah Golf Estates:

THIRD ROUND

Alvaro Quiros, Spain	68-64-70—202
Paul Lawrie, Scotland	65-73-66—204
Louis Oosthuizen, South Africa	72-67-66—205
Luke Donald, England	72-68-66—206
Peter Hanson, Sweden	64-72-71—207
Francesco Molinari, Italy	71-68-68—207
Shane Lowry, Ireland	69-70-68—207
Rory Mcllory, Northern Ireland	66-71-71—208
Robert Rock, England	68-69-71—208
Charl Schwartzel, South Africa	69-71-68—208
Sergio Garcia, Spain	67-73-68—208
Paul Casey, England	72-66-70—208
Martin Kaymer, Germany	73-71-64—208
Pablo Larrazabal, Spain	71-68-70—209
Ian Poulter, England	73-69-68—210
David Lynn, England	69-72-70—211
Lee Westwood, England	73-69-69—211
Jaco Van Zyl, South Africa	69-70-72—211
Johan Edfors, Sweden	72-68-72—212
Alexander Noren, Sweden	70-72-70—212
Edoardo Molinari, Italy	71-73-68—212
Graeme McDowell, Northern Ireland	71-71-71—213
Gonzalo Fdez-Castano, Spain	70-71-72—213
Fredrik Andersson Hed, Sweden	75-66-72—213
Matteo Manassero, Italy	73-68-72—213

Nicolas Collaerts, Belgium	72-74-67—213
Robert Karlsson, Sweden	73-72-68—213
Jamie Donaldson, Wales	75-69-69—213
Thorbjorn Olesen, Denmark	70-73-70—213
Richie Ramsay, Scotland	74-69-70—213
David Horsey, England	69-72-73—214
Thomas Levett, France	70-75-69—214
Gregory Bourdy, France	70-73-71—214
Thomas Bjorn, Denmark	73-70-71—214
Raphael Jacquelin, France	74-67-74—215
Felipe Aguilar, Chile	70-77-68—215
Rhys Davies, Wales	73-73-69—215
Ernie Els, South Africa	74-69-73—216
Lorenzo Gagli, Italy	72-71-73—216
George Coetzee, South Africa	74-73-69—216
Anders Hansen, Denmark	74-73-69—216
Hennie Otto, South Africa	70-75-71—216
Gregory Havret, France	72-72-72—216
Rafael Cabrera-Bello, Spain	72-70-74—216
Thomas Aiken, South Africa	69-73-75—217
Ross Fisher, England	68-74-75—217
Mark Foster, England	76-71-70—217
Retief Goosen, South Africa	74-69-75—218
Miguel Angel Jimenez, Spain	71-77-71—219
Peter Lawrie, Ireland	75-74-71—220
Joost Luiten, Netherlands	76-71-73—221
Simon Dyson, England	77-75-69—221
James Morrison, England	75-70-76—221
Christian Nilsson, Sweden	76-73-73—222
Darren Clarke, Northern Ireland	76-72-75—223
Michael Hoey, Northern Ireland	75-72-76—223
Scott Jamieson, Scotland	72-72-79—223

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Weekend Sports

**T**eams raced for playoff berths last week.

In the Shirley's caging, the playoff round started with eight teams and after a week, two were left standing—PSS/McGraw-Hill and DFS Galleria. The two finalists were scheduled to battle for the championship last night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Over at the Hopwood Junior High School Field for the FA Cup (for boys U12 and girls U15), 10 squads also competed at the beginning of the playoffs and Paire and MP United boys U12 teams made it all the way

## Playoffs rush for teams

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER

to the finals. MP United went on to win the championship.

Still in football, the boys U15 and U18 teams and women's squads had their separate FA Challenge Cup at the Hopwood and Oleai Sports Complex pitches. After last week's playoff matches, only four teams have survived, the MP United U18 and U15, Paire U18, and

Matansa U18.

In the 5th Annual Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament, four clubs advanced to the playoffs—Saipan Badminton Club, Golden Racquet, Berks Blazers, and Shirley's Badminton Club. In the semis, SBC won over Shirley's while the Blazers slipped past Golden Racquet. SBC then went on to

win the championship.

Other notable events last week were the record-swims of Tsunami Saipan swimmers, the 5th Annual Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race, the 2011 Saipan Swim Club Jingle Bell Fun Run, and the 2011 Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross-Country Championships.

Tsunami Saipan's Lukas Kang, Ryuto Yanai, Miku Tammy, Kaito Yanai, Angel Marie Tan, and Kensuke Kimura crushed CNMI age groups marks during the Tsunami Swim Circuit Series 3 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

In the 100-kilometer Hell of Marianas race, the Australians

triumphed with John Anderson winning the men's event with a record-time of two hours, 57 seconds, and 47.09 seconds and compatriot Aussie Jodie Willet topping the women's field after clocking in at 3:16:15.72.

The SSC Jingle Bell Fun Run from the Garapan Fishing Base to Kilili Beach Park lured more than 80 runners with Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel leading the finishers with a time of 17:25.

In the All Schools cross-country championships, Marianas High School swept the high school divisions, while Hopwood reigned in the girls U14 division.



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Members of the MHS cross country team pose for a group photo after ruling the All Schools championships.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Two Shirley's FC players battle a Matansa defender for the ball during the FA Challenge Cup last week at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.



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Kensuke Kimura, seen here in the Tsunami Saipan Swim Circuit 2, was one of the six swimmers who broke CNMI age group records last week.



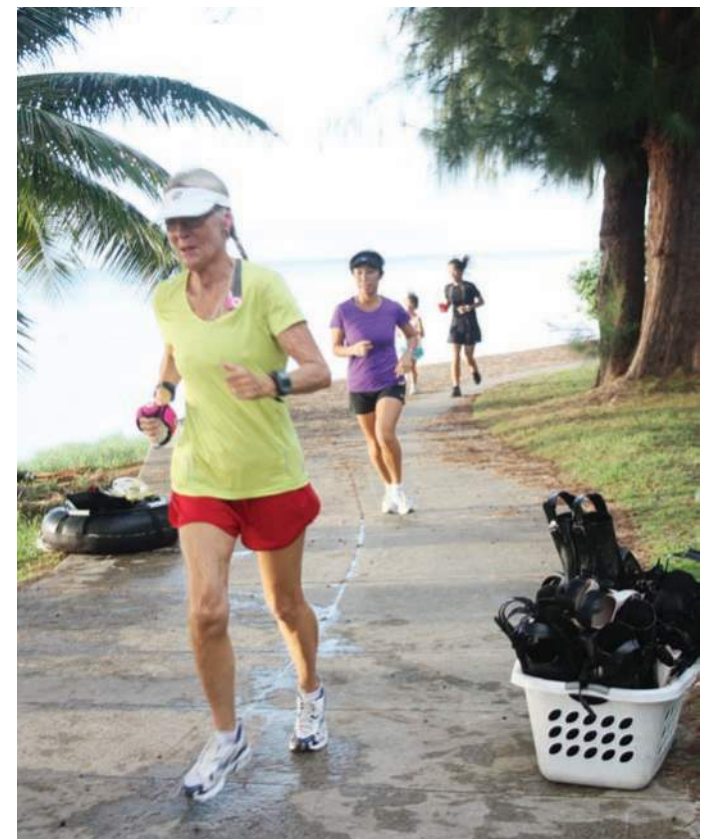
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

PSS/McGraw-Hill's Dave Sablan pulls up for a running shot while Fiesta's Elmer Esdrelon, right, looks on during their semis game in the Shirley's caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



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Japan's Kinji Hashimoto leads Korea's Joon Yong Seo and Jung Hwan Youm on their way to Marpi during the 5th Hell of Marianas Century Cycle Race.



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▲ Suzy Kindel leads Sakiko Eda as they run along Beach Road during last week's SSC Jingle Bell Run.

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◀ Saipan Badminton Club's Toshiko Obata makes a return during a championship game against the Berks Blazers in the Traders Insurance tournament last week at the TSL Sports Complex.





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# Saipan Tribune Sports



Playoffs rush for teams

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28 MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## MP United U12 rules FA Cup



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United U12 players hoist their championship trophy after beating Paire U12, 1-0, in the FA Cup last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**M**P United U12 topped the 2011 NMIFA Boys and Girls FA Cup after beating Paire Football Club, 1-0, last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.



A mir  
A b e s scored the lone goal in the championship game, hitting a cross from the right sideline in the 18th minute off a feed from Alex Park to give MP United the perpetual trophy in the inaugural FA Cup for the boys U12 and girls U15 teams.

Joining Abes and Park on the

champion squad are Noel Cabrera, Gee Syu Hahn, Clayton Izuka, Steve Kim, James Kim, Kentaro Kitagawa, Bada Lee, Jesus Quitano, Colin Ramsey, Arthur Sondheim, Wataru Tajima, Sun Joon Tenorio, and Morris Villanueva. Joel Jimenez is MP United U12's coach, while Lydia Tan is his assistant.

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## Football coaches get boost

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Coaches from the five football clubs on Saipan received an advanced Christmas gifts in a form of effective teaching methods and principles from renowned Union of European Football Associations coach Gary White.

White conducted the three-hour clinic early this month with over 40 individuals (coaches and several players) attending the practical session at the Koblerville Elementary School pitch and the theoretical class at the same school.

"It was a short, but fruitful

clinic. We learned a lot from the drills he conducted and managed to discover new approaches on coaching," Tan Holdings U10 coach Miko Moran said.

White, the former British Virgin Islands and Bahamas national teams coach and now the technical director for the Washington Youth Soccer, introduced drills appropriate for players' level of skills.

"We did warm-up drills and then made progress with various activities that should be used during training sessions to improve the players' skills," Moran added.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Union of European Football Associations coach Gary White, standing seventh from left, Guam Football Association technical director Cheri Stewart, eighth, pose for a group photo with participants of a coaching clinic held early this month at the Koblerville Elementary School.

## FGC, Blue Haus/Satbahi split games in GBL

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

FGC and Blue Haus/Satbahi each chalked up a win and a loss in the Garapan Basketball League IT&E Cup last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Satbahi served Andhok's (1-6) its sixth straight loss after a 60-58 victory in a continuation game, but fell to FGC in another make-up pairing, 77-65. Then in the first match, the Ol'Aces (3-2) trumped FGC, 90-81. Satbahi and FGC now have similar 3-4 records.

The Ol'Aces and FGC played in the first game of the night with the former taking a 21-16 lead after getting baskets from seven different players in the opening period. Then the Ol'Aces' Freddie Pelisamen streaked to eight points in the second quarter to push the lead to double digits at the half, 46-35. Lerio Pagarao managed 17 points for FGC in

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FGC's Lerio Pagarao, left, loses his balance after getting a nudge from the Ol'Aces' Mike Olaitman during their game in the GBL caging last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.  
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

## Wushin Express extends streak to three

Wushin Express' Roderick Tibayan, right, fakes off the defense of Pacific Postal Plus' Mico Usi during the first quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



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REPORTER



Wushin Express secured back-to-back victories over the weekend in the 2011 DLX Basketball Invitational Friendship League to stretch its winning run to three.

Wushin first played against 8th Division last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court and eked out a 94-87 victory. Then last Saturday, Wushin dominated Pacific Postal Plus, 83-71, to improve to a 4-1 record. Wushin's two other wins came from its debut against FGC Builders on Nov. 25 and 86-74 triumph over Saipan Boys on Dec. 5 and the lone loss was at the hands of MDX on Nov. 30, 67-84.

Jun Tabora scored 20-plus point for Wushin in the two wins over the weekend, making 26 against 8th Division and 19 versus Pacific Postal. He and Junar Guiab made crucial baskets in the fourth quarter against

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